

# Northwest Arctic Borough

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163 Lagoon Street  
P.O Box 1110 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
(907) 442-2500 Fax (907) 442-2930  
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Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly  
Regular Telephonic Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.  
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

## CALL TO ORDER

President Hadley called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

## INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Cleveland provided the invocation.

## SAFETY MOMENT

Member Ballot encouraged everyone to practice safety measures during this pandemic.

Member Cleveland also encouraged everyone to be safe when outdoors on the trail as there are sink holes and soft snow.

Member Carr also reminded everyone of ice safety especially for the children.

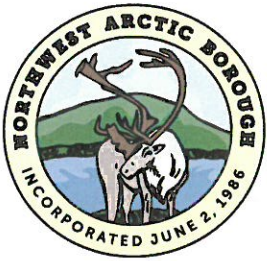
## ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

## Introduction of Staff and Guests

Lucy S. Nelson	Matt Mead	Angie Sturm	Marie Greene, VIC
Tony Giardini, Trilogy	Helena Hildreth	Fritz Westlake	Nate Kotch Jr.
Aucha Kameroff	Martha Hensley	Erin Stevens	Lance Miller
Verna Westlake, Teck AK		Ryan Andersen, D.O.T.	Jon Hutchinson, D.O.T
Hiram Walker	Eva Harvey	Lauren Mason	Lisa Mayhan
Terri Walker	Margaret Hansen	Megan Williams	Paul Hansen
Puyuk Joule	Greta Schuerch	Kelly Williams	Les Yesnik, Red Dog
Wayne Hall	Elaine Sanders, Trilogy Metals		



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**A quorum was present to conduct business.**

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Nelson requested to add Resolution 20-82, 20-84, 20-85, 20-86, 20-87, 20-88, 20-89, and 20-90. She also would like to add Mr. Tony Giardini, Ambler Metals to Item G (5) Communication and Appearances.

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

## **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Regular meeting minutes of October 28, 2020 as presented.

**Member Carr motioned to approve the October 28, 2020 Regular minutes as presented, Member Cleveland seconded; a roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

### **1. Les Yesnik, General Manager – Teck Update**

Mr. Les Yesnik, General Manager, provided an update on how they are managing the COVID19 Pandemic at the Red Dog Mine and Port Site. He also provided an update on the Red Dog Operations.

### **2. Jonathan Hutchinson and Ryan Andersen, Department of Transportation (D.O.T.)**

Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson and Mr. Ryan Andersen provided an update on current and future State D.O.T. capital projects in the Northwest Arctic Borough.

### **3. Lance Miller, NANA VP – Natural Resources – NANA Lands update**

Mr. Lance Miller, provided an NANA Lands natural resource/mineral update.

### **4. Kelly Williams – CEO for OTZ Telephone Cooperative**

Mr. Kelly Williams, provided a plans and progress update for OTZ Telephone Cooperative.

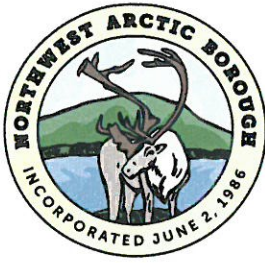
### **5. Tony Giardini – Ambler Trilogy Metals**

Mr. Tony Giardini provided an update for the 2020 field program for the Ambler Mining District.

**A ten minute break was taken at 11:07 am.**

**The meeting reconvened from break at 11:22 am.**





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## BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

### 1. Budget, Audit and Finance Committee

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

### 2. Financial Report

Ms. Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer, provided a summary of Expenditures and Revenue Financials in month ending October 31, 2020.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMEGENCY ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 20-04am01 an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to amend the adopted line-item budget for fiscal year 2021.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-04am01, recommending approval.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 20-04am01 for enactment, seconded by Member Carr. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

2. Ordinance 20-10 an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Section 2.04 of the borough code.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-10, recommending approval.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 20-10 for enactment, seconded by Member Carr. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

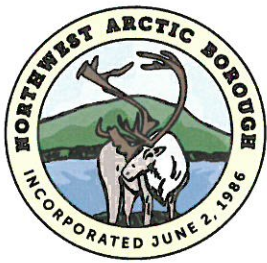
3. Ordinance 20-11 an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to amend Chapter 8.08.030 € of the Northwest Arctic Borough Code, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-11, recommending approval.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 20-11 for enactment, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

**A lunch break recess was taken at 12:07 pm.**

**The meeting reconvened from lunch recess at 1:03 pm.**



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## **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

Member Carr reported that she has been attending the weekly COVID19 taskforce meetings. She appreciates all the entities in Kotzebue to help bring down the COVID numbers and she encouraged everyone to practice safety measures. She also reported that she attended the annual Alaska Municipal League (AML) virtual conference to hear the statewide updates of current issues in Alaska. She added that she was glad to get more educated about the COVID pandemic issues within the State of Alaska.

Member Ballot reported she also attended the AML Virtual Conference and it was very interesting as a lot of information was shared and she congratulated Ms. Angie Sturm on her win. She looks forward to future meetings on Microsoft Team.

Member Sampson reported he attended the AML Virtual Conference and he appreciated utilizing the IPAD during the conference. He reported that he got on the AML Board of Directors for another year.

Member Armstrong reported that he attended Joint Maintenance Construction Committee and the AML Virtual Conference. He reported that he is back on the NACO Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee.

Member Shroyer Beaver reported that there was a breakdown of the resolutions that were discussed in the BAF Work session meeting.

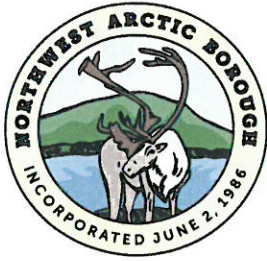
Member Nay reported that she also attended the AML Virtual Conference and is continuing to study the Borough Charter and is compiling a few questions regarding it.

President Hadley reported that he also attended the AML Virtual Conference and that there is strong support for the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program from the State for rural Alaska. He also attended the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team (NWALT) meeting and got an update from consultant Wendy Chamberlain on the newly elected officials in the legislature. The next meeting date is on December 4, 2020 to bring their concerns or issues to the elected officials in Juneau.

## **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Nelson reported they have been working on setting up the Microsoft Teams program for directors and staff on the daily operations side so that they can meet virtually and the next step is to work on the Assembly with this program to be utilized during the monthly meetings. Mayor Nelson reported they have been working on the Borough Annual Report to the public, the borough website and the borough Facebook page in





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regards to public notices and updates. We are closed on Thanksgiving Day and she continues to meet with the Incident Command Meeting every Thursday and the Unified Incident Command Team and she thanked the Maniilaq Health Center, the Borough and the City of Kotzebue for their continued efforts on the pandemic issue. She attended a meeting with the Community & Economic Development staff to discuss the Economic Relief packet that had been ruled out recently. Mayor Nelson added that this will be sent out to all the villages and staff has been working on the Kotzebue section in preparation for dissemination of this packet to residents.

Mayor Nelson reported that she attended a Request for Proposals (RFP) meeting on October 20 to discuss the Shungnak and Kobuk Solar Array project and she also met with Mr. Ramsey Fawaz, CEO of Ambler Metals to discuss borough expectations regarding the Ambler Mining District. She added that Mr. Fawaz will continue to attend the Borough Assembly meetings to provide updates on the Ambler Trilogy Metals. She attended a meeting with Agnew Beck to discuss the Comprehensive Plan for the Planning Department. She attended the BAF work session meeting with the Assembly to review the FY 21 budget amendment. She met with Governor Dunleavy telephonically on mandates requesting more COVID 19 testing and personnel for the Kotzebue hub and Anchorage airport.

Mayor Nelson reported that she also met with Wes Early, KOTZ Radio News Director, regarding increase in COVID cases and mandated testing and more personnel. Mayor Nelson also attended the AML Virtual Conference and commented that the Microsoft Team is similar to Zoom which AML uses during their meetings. Lastly, Mayor Nelson reported that she also attended the NWALT meeting to discuss priorities.

### TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Nelson recommended December 21-22, 2020 as the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday and Tuesday of the month for the next Regular meeting of the Assembly.

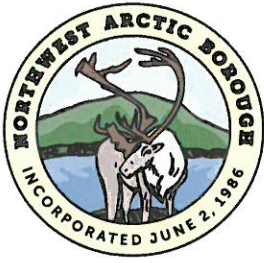
**Member Carr motioned, Member Sampson seconded to approve the December 21-22, 2020 Regular Meeting. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

### RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 20-79** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an Assembly Donation under the FY21 Budget for the Native Village of Kotzebue Nikaitchuat Ilisagviat.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-79, recommending approval. Member Carr asked Ms. Puyuk Joule asked if school was in session and how many students are enrolled. Ms. Joule reported the school is not in session due to the COVID 19 situation





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and once it is open, ten students will be enrolled so that they can maintain adequate social distancing in the classroom. Member Carr asked if they applied for CARES ACT Funds and Ms. Joule commented that Nikaitchuat has not but the the Native Village of Kotzebue did and they were able to upgrade the technology so they can meet remotely, create digital versions of the, homework packets for the students, utilizing an app for the students to have access to receive instructions for the homework and to make the playground safer.

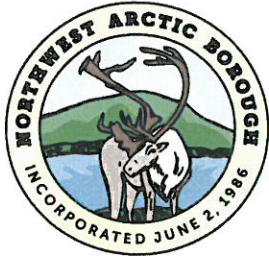
Member Shroyer Beaver asked what the total budget for this year was and Ms. Joule commented it is 215,000 to 315,000 annually. Ms. Joule reported they receive donations from NANA and they applied for a grant from Maniilaq Association. Ms. Joule reported they sell the songbooks as a fundraiser and they rely on parents for tuition payment for their child. They are reviewing an ANA grant for next year for language preservation. Ms. Joule reported they have been coordinating with the school district in regards to the ANA grant which is four levels up to the sixth grade. Member Carr asked what the staff number is and how many stay on when class is not in session. Ms. Joule reported they have four staff people during session and the Executive Director is on when school is not in session.

Member Sampson commented that the school has been teaching the Inupiaq language without success and they have been putting aside our language. He noted the Nikaitchuat School has been trying to teach the Inupiaq Language at a young age to keep the language alive and if they close, the language, culture and tradition will soon die.

Member Loon commented that it is good that Nikaitchuat is partnering with the School District and she asked what percent of the students are tribally enrolled. Ms. Joule reported that half of the returning students are enrolled but it is not a requirement to attend the school. Member Carr reported that she cannot support this resolution for a \$100,000 and she would like to amend the motion.

**Member Carr made an amendment to the motion to change the amount from \$100,000 to \$50,000. Member Loon seconded the motion. A roll call was conducted and the amended motion passed by a majority with Member Sampson and President Hadley voting NO.**

**Member Ballot motioned to approve Resolution 20-79, seconded by Member Nay. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed by a majority with Member Sampson voting NO.**



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2. **Resolution 20-80** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an Assembly Donation under the FY21 Budget for the Boys & Girls Club.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-80, recommending approval.

Member Carr asked Ms. Lauren Mason if the Boys and Girls Club is presently open and how many months have they been closed. She indicated they have been closed down since March 13 and remain closed in Kotzebue for in person programming. The Boys and Girls Club is offering virtual programs Monday through Friday and one on one tutoring during the day in Kotzebue. She gave an update on the other clubs in the region that are open and that they are advertising the zoom link. Member Shroyer Beaver asked for the Facebook page advertisement link and she asked what the budget is and if it is for the whole region. She reported that it is for the four clubs that are presently open.

**Member Armstrong motioned to approve Resolution 20-80, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed by a majority with Member Carr voting NO.**

3. **Resolution 20-81** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly confirming the Mayor's appointments to the Northwest Arctic Borough Public Safety Commission.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-81, recommending approval.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 20-81, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

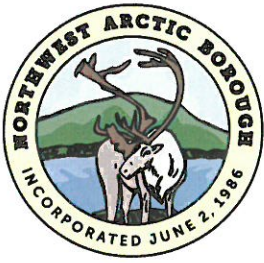
4. **Resolution 20-82** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly confirming approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the City of Kiana to fund Kiana Heavy Equipment continuation, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-82, recommending approval.

**Member Carr motioned to approve Resolution 20-82, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Resolution 20-83** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly ratifying the Mayor's Appointment of Ramzi Fawaz to the Community and Economic Development Commission.





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Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-83, recommend do pass.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 20-83, seconded by Member Carr. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Resolution 20-84** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly extending the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Emergency Proclamation for COVID-19, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-84, recommend do pass.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 20-84, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

7. **Resolution 20-85** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Contract with Alaska Native Renewable Industries LLC for design, procurement, installation, construction, system integration, commissioning, and training for a Solar PV Array/Battery Project in Shungnak and Kobuk, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-85 and recommended do pass.

**Member Armstrong motioned to approve Resolution 20-85, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

8. **Resolution 20-86** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application to fund a Kivalina Heat Recovery System, and for related purposes.

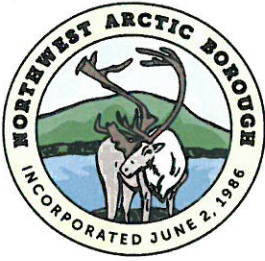
Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-86 and recommended do pass.

**Member Swan motioned to approve Resolution 20-86, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

9. **Resolution 20-87** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Kotzebue Electric Association to fund Kotzebue 100% Renewable Power – design and permitting phase, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-87 and recommended do pass.





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**Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 20-87, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously with Member Carr abstaining from action.**

10. **Resolution 20-88** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Native Village of Shungnak and the Native Village of Kobuk to fund a Solar/Battery system, and for related purpose.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-88 and recommended do pass.

**Member Armstrong motioned to approve Resolution 20-88, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

11. **Resolution 20-89** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Kobuk 440 Racing Association to fund enhancing and perpetuating dog mushing in the Arctic, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-89 and recommended do pass.

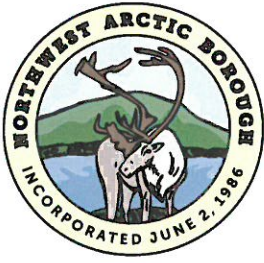
Member Carr asked if the association was a 501 C (3) and Mr. Paul Hansen agreed they were and are organized under that designation since 2011. He reported that they have an annual budget of 90,000-100,000 annually and 95% of it comes from corporate sponsorship.

Member Carr stated that she cannot support this request although she supports dog mushing as a whole but the borough is facing budget issues at this time.

Member Sampson addressed VIC Resolution 20-19.

Member Loon believes this is a recreational request and that the borough's budget looks bleak at this time as village infrastructure and COVID 19 along with the school infrastructure still needs to be addressed. She stated that because of this she cannot support this resolution.

Member Shroyer Beaver asked about the gaming permit and Mr. Hansen commented that it is more for fund raiser activities such as raffles. He added that the \$100,000 sponsorship is mainly used for core race activities and more than half for purses. Member Shroyer Beaver commented that she sees this more of a donation and to



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continue to look at the criteria in the future but due to additional expenses such as the DEED payments the borough has incurred, she feels that she cannot support this request at this time.

Member Nay recommended about the Kobuk 440 Racing Association possibly partnering with Maniilaq Association Behavior Health or other type of wellness program. Mr. Hansen commented that he appreciates that because it encourages active lifestyles and community engagement.

Member Ballot encouraged Mr. Hansen and the racing association to revisit the VIF application process as the Assembly has to make tough decisions in regards to health and safety.

Member Barr commented that if funding wasn't so much of an issue now she recommends funding more wellness activities. She recommended that they request a donation.

**Member Armstrong motioned to approve Resolution 20-89, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion FAILED unanimously.**

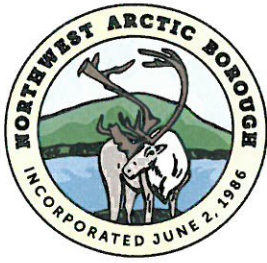
12. **Resolution 20-90** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Northwest Arctic Borough School district to fund a Technology Upgrade to One-to-One devices, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-90 and recommended do pass.

Member Carr asked Ms. Terri Walker, Superintendent, if all their CARES Act funds were already allocated and she agreed they were. Ms. Walker reported that Teck supported 50% of the costs for the upgrade and they recommended that the district apply for the Village Improvement Fund program for the other 50%. Ms. Megan Williams, Director of Administrative Services, reported the current fund balance is 1.2 million and a revision will be done in January.

Member Ballot asked if travel funds are available since no one has been able to travel. Ms. Walker commented they haven't touched the student activities travel fund as they have postponed all activities till the spring incase those activities are open again. Ms. Williams reported that the amount is 1.1 million dollars. Ms. Margaret Hansen reported that the student count is a concern and she believes the DEED funding may be lower. Member Shroyer Beaver asked where the funding would derive from if none came from





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the Borough and she reported that many of expenditures will mostly have to come out of the General Fund.

Member Loon recommended that the school district utilize the travel funds or any other activities that are not in session to be used for expenses such as this. For this reason Member Loon stated she will not be supporting this resolution.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 20-90, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted and the motion FAILED unanimously.**

### AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Ms. Walker commented that the Assembly works towards the good of the whole community and she thanked the Assembly for their time and consideration today.

### ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Nay thanked the administration for preparation for this meeting and the presenters who called in and those from the school district. A lot of tough decisions were made today with regards to budgets and the important thing is that we continue to work together and build our relationship.

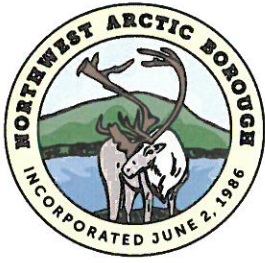
Member Ballot thanked everyone for a good meeting and the road ahead of us isn't getting any easier. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Member Loon thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for their hard work and to the audience who came forward as difficult decisions were made today. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Member Carr thanked everyone who attended the meeting and commented that she tries to make a fair decision on what she observes. She welcomes all the new employees to the Borough, Clay Nordlum and Eva Harvey, and Martha Hensley. She also welcomed the returning and new Assembly Members. She feels that it is important to make her comments understood. She thanked the COVID 19 Taskforce and Maniilaq Association for all their work in battling this pandemic to keep the numbers down.

Member Barr commented that now is the time to be thankful and thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for their good work. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and be safe.

Member Shroyer Beaver thanked everyone who called in with their issues and she knows they understand that times are getting tougher. She believes that if we continue to have



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this dialogue together we can make good decisions. She looks forward to the retreat to discuss our priorities.

Member Armstrong expressed his condolences to those who lost their loved ones. He thanked everyone for a good meeting. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and wished his sisters Happy Anniversary today.

Member Swan thanked Mayor Nelson and staff for their hard work and President Hadley for running the meeting. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to be safe.

Member Cleveland thanked the staff for the preparation for this meeting and those who called in. He expressed condolences to those who have lost loved ones. He thanked Kotzebue for making a casket for Duna to come home with and they are still waiting for Louie Jr. to come home. He commented that harder times are coming but we can work together and get through it. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Member Sampson thanked the Mayor and staff for a good meeting. He commented that today we showed our differences or viewpoints but at the end of the day we leave as friends. He appreciated everyone's viewpoints and he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and be safe during the weather conditions.

President Hadley commented that we had a challenging meeting today but as we move forward as an assembly we will continue to work on issues. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

Mayor Nelson thanked everyone for calling in and providing their input on the ordinances and resolutions. As we reviewed our FY21 budget amendment we had to look closely at our subsidized programs because of the 100% bond debt, our health insurance rates and we are trying to do everything to meet our vision and mission with the Borough. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Ms. Sturm commented that the economic trend continues and that we are not in an oil rich state anymore. We will continue to see potential reductions from the State of Alaska and continued cost shifting that will place additional burden on the Borough budget. We need to work on funding requests that need to be carefully reviewed with the economic trend as we are not big enough to take on those large requests.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Carr motioned, Member Sampson seconded to adjourn. With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 4:21 P.M.