



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.  
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Lincoln Carr called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

**INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*Member Cleveland provided invocation.*

**SAFETY MOMENT**

*Member Armstrong mentioned cool out there, hunters and fishermen will be going out. Be safe, make sure have VHF, watch creeks and mouth. Be extra careful.*

Member Sampson in Inupiaq; closely watch each-others through these Spring months. Our children/grandchildren will go hunting/fishing; they need to know the dangerous spots. Along with this coronavirus which continue to slowly spread, need to watch that too.

**ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL**

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

<i>Elmer Armstrong Jr.</i>	<i>Kirk Oviok Jr.</i>	<i>Delores Barr</i>	<i>Austin Swan Sr.</i>
<i>Miles Cleveland Sr.</i>	<i>Sandy Shroyer Beaver</i>	<i>Hannah Loon</i>	<i>Walter Sampson</i>
<i>Reggie Joule III</i>	<i>Dood Lincoln Carr</i>	<i>Nathan Hadley Jr.</i>	

Introduction of Staff and Guests

<i>Lucy S. Nelson</i>	<i>Coltrane Chase</i>	<i>Matt Mead</i>	<i>Nelda Swan</i>
<i>Angie Sturm</i>	<i>Siikauraq Whiting</i>	<i>Aucha Kameroff</i>	<i>Nate Kotch</i>
<i>Jamie Schaeffer</i>	<i>Helena Hildreth</i>	<i>Marlene Moto-Karl</i>	<i>Tanya Ballot</i>
<i>Margaret Hansen</i>	<i>Terri Walker</i>	<i>Fritz Westlake</i>	<i>Ingemar Mathiasson</i>
<i>Christine Hess</i>	<i>Megan Williams</i>	<i>Sandra Kowalski</i>	<i>Carl Weisner</i>
<i>Verna Westlake</i>	<i>Saima Chase</i>	<i>April Snyder</i>	<i>Souchoy Saephan</i>
<i>Stella Atoruk</i>			

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda presented for April 28, 2020. Mayor Nelson request to add Teck report for approval and Incident command update to public. *President Hadley add ICC Food Steering Committee to other business, this is different then ICC which Member Cleveland is part of.*

Member Shroyer Beaver request to remove Ordinance 20-05; seconded by Member Loon. Vice President Lincoln Carr asked Administration for clarification, keep on agenda and vote.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve as amended; Member Shroyer Beaver seconded; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Regular minutes of March 25, 2020 for approval.

**Member Loon motion to approve minutes, Member Sampson seconded; motion passed unanimously by roll call.**

## COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

*Terri Walker, Northwest Arctic Borough School District budget request and appreciates this time to provide report. Apologies to present an unadopted budget from School Board. Although Governor had vetoed \$30M one-time funding that the legislative passed with the intent that education funding from federal government from CARES act, although restrictions. Possibly close to million which would be used for Covid expenses.*

*Mrs. Walker mentioned a survey had been submitted to the ASC to see what needs to be cut; overall student activities, language and meals program were tied with Pre-K. Currently at a \$2.6M deficit, had removed half to make ends meet; based on hoping Borough will provide addition \$1.5M they are asking on top of local required contribution so they can provide for our children. Appreciate all you do for our communities; know weighed odds.*

*Mrs. Margaret Hansen apologize all the information has not been submitted; will try better communicating so you can make an informed decision. Our kids are having hard time, figure out where we will make those cuts. They would appreciate if the Assembly look through the information and try to find funds to lessen the cuts, applying for all the funds they can.*

*Mrs. Walker mentioned they are applying for grants to fund although no promises or security. Member Shroyer Beaver asked Mrs. Walker of the survey, what percentage respond and how many went out; she suggests tracking. What about virtual learning? Has State implemented anything as far as that? Will that be implemented in our area? By all grades or what grades? For Inupiaq Language, what changes have you instilled in the school; what are you implementing? How do you plan on bringing forward as far as for students and grad levels? Member Shroyer Beaver asked if School District is working with Aqqaluk Trust as far as potential dollars to help which she suggests. What have State of Alaska committed to languages in our schools, are there any monies, programs or curriculum they can assist with. Have you partnered with Inupiaq Language Commission, NANA or our organization for financial support? What have you implemented on the Cultural Programs and what grade levels besides Inupiaq Language? Is this going to be regular class schedule now?*

*Member Shroyer Beaver appreciate all you are doing and know not an easy task; commend our people in the communities doing that for our students. Also, to Raymond, on Inupiaq Emersion although must have Language Commission and NANA, support of organizations. We need to come together as a Region and not in the hands of School District.*

*President Hadley suggests the Inupiaq teachers in the villages work with the Teachers on students asking in Inupiaq. Member Joule asked School District if Tech Center still have the Emersion school, have you sought funds for nursing program? Member Sampson thank School District for report, he asked Lobbyist Christine Hess what final numbers State had allocated for Education and what is Borough's share?*

*Member Barr asked what kind of impact Covid19 on School District with current budget since school had been closed these past couple months. Member Loon had been involved with Language for many years, over the years the Inupiaq Teachers get paid at lowest pay. Vice President echo yesterdays comments regarding Assembly and School District working together with budget requests, need ahead of time where thoroughly discussed. Mayor Nelson provided an update of the CARE Act funding; of \$38.2M School District would receive \$1.089M. Borough is impacted drastically if the monies are not put back in, down to \$1.2M, had wrote to Governor Dunleavy; we do not have property tax or a way to increase our PILT revenue. Borough is faced with financial obligations to meet as well, improving living and economic conditions for our people. Appreciate you coming to the table, would be nice to have operating statement to see where year to date; at end of the day it is this governing body to make that decision.*

*Mrs. Walker thank Assembly; know even if \$2.6M they will look at cutting although asking for \$1.5M extra even it is quite a chunk of change from Borough. Even in future either make cuts although hoping all not at once; actively seeking grants to help support these programs. Thank you for your time today. Mrs. Hansen thank all communities that sent in letters of support for School District needs, they will continue to keep the Assembly informed much as they can. Proud of our Borough who have been able to invest \$70M saved away and know there are needs out there, how can we give little bite more for our kids so can offer best education without cutting so much the programs.*

*Mrs. Hansen meant to say they seen on the report how well Borough done on investment and understand Borough has commitments; hopefully, they can find a way to fund little bit more for education and to consider that. Thank you.*

*Eva Harvey, Teck Annual Report* Mayor Nelson presented a final report to Teck by April 30, 2020 which was presented in draft form at March meeting; requesting approval prior to sending to Teck.

**Member Loon motion to accept the Teck report, seconded by *Member Swan*; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

*Carl Weisner, Incident Command Team Report* Mayor Nelson provided a brief summary of the Covid19; some states are taking risks of opening businesses and eases up on restrictions although believe too soon. As of this morning there 345 cases reported and 9 deaths in Alaska; extended the hunkering down until May 19<sup>th</sup> due to thread.

*Mr. Weisner provided a summary of the weekly meeting with the joint entities of the Borough and State level. Acknowledge Maniilaq is prepared with test kits, at the recommendation hunker down in order to protect residents of the Borough. Stay home, limit travel to essential errands; practice social distance, wear mask, wash hands frequently, disinfect surfaces and monitor for fever and cough. Department of Public Health Nursing is meeting Alaska Airlines jet and charters if schedules; strongly advise to isolate fourteen days regardless of negative test result shall include the whole family to protect others.*

*President Hadley thank Mayor Nelson for hosting these meeting, at times there are approximately thirty to fifty people on the weekly teleconference. He thanks City of Kotzebue for extending the hunker down for the hub for all the village.*

Mayor Nelson mentioned while in warning phase we are preparing through the unified command team which is based basically emergency personnel; if the pandemic to our community we have to be prepared for response efforts which will be initiated by the team. There maybe restrictions like curfews ordered, height and safety measures and mandates of facilities and people. Had NWALT designated as various committees, School District who is managing resource committee; came up with funding from NANA, Borough and School District. Ryan and Bering Air sending free of charge, Teck donated \$10K to each tribe for supplies along with cloth for masks. Sulianich have been sewing. ANTHC had sent hand sanitizer and bottled water. Really appreciate all working together.

Vice President Lincoln Carr mentioned Mrs. Margaret Hansen is on the Resource Committee and have been ordering materials for the villages; Native Village of Kotzebue has supplies. Still have people in Kotzebue on the honey bucket system who needs these supplies. The City of Kotzebue is also distributing Clorox free to residents. An announcement will be aired on KOTZ when the material is ready to pick up at the Kotzebue IRA office.

*Mrs. Hansen thank Mayor Nelson for allowing the committee for looking for resources to provide to all the communities. The School District Maintenance Staff are preparing the next round of packages to the communities, hopefully later this week will be brought to Ryan Air. Information have been listed with applications with deadlines.*

Break observed at 10:17 A.M.  
Reconvened at 10:30 A.M.

### **BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Budget, Audit and Finance Vice President Lincoln Carr provided a brief summary of the meeting held the previous day. *Member Armstrong stated will vote Ordinance 20-05 will be voted down. He asked if Legal Mead called in.*

Financial Report Mrs. Sturm provided a summary of financials ending March 31, 2020. She noted that the contingency reserve and sustainability investment account were created with the fact in mind that Borough drive revenue source from finite resource in the Region.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

1. **Ordinance 20-02** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code to remove the selection process for appointment of an Assembly Elder Representative, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-02, recommend do pass. *Member Swan asked if it includes the committee representatives. Member Barr asked to add language if don't include Elders in future like now, would it be open for reconsideration.*

**Member Sampson motion to enact Ordinance 20-02, seconded by Member**

**Cleveland; motion passed by majority with nine yes and two no by roll call vote.**

2. **Ordinance 20-03** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Personnel Code.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-03, recommend do pass.

**Member Shroyer Beaver motion to enact Ordinance 20-03, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

3. **Ordinance 20-04** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line-item budget for Fiscal Year 2021.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-04, recommend do pass. *Mrs. Sturm mentioned the PILT revenue in first reading was estimated at \$25M although based on discussions by Administration it is now \$22M; decrease of previous estimate.*

**Member Sampson motion to enact Ordinance 20-04, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

#### **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

*Member Swan mentioned ASRC had informed Kivalina about the intentioned of the Road Construction during the Covid19. Planning possibly back to work next month, working with IRA and City regarding that.*

Vice President Lincoln Carr mentioned she have been attending the task force this past month and half. Thank the different entities involved, good to see our Region working together; thank you Mayor for the task force.

*President Hadley thank the Incident Command Team, Mayor for hosting through Borough; good attendance throughout the villages along with DOT working on response plan. Thank you to Mrs. Hansen and the committee purchasing cleaning supplies for the villages. He suggests the children wearing masks and gloves when out in public to prepare for school.*

#### **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Nelson summarized written report ending March 2020. As of today, there have no cases of Covid19 in the area, have extended the hunker down order until May 19, 2020.

*Member Armstrong asked if travel permits are one of the tools of the Incident Command incase Borough needs to implement. Member Loon asked what type of plans there during the hunting season are; what have Fish & Game or National Park Service thoughts or has there been combined meetings regarding this. She also asked if there were any bear permits or have, they given to any outside hunters.*

Member Sampson mentioned as landowners suggests because of pandemic we need to see to place permitting requirements.

#### **TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Mayor Nelson recommend May 25-26, 2020; plan on submitted revised FY20 amended budget based on current accurate information before year end. *Member Barr mentioned May 25, 2020 is Memorial Day holiday. Mayor suggests May 26-27, 2020.*

#### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

1. **Ordinance 20-05** an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code for the Borough Clerk, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson recommend not passing Ordinance 20-05.

**Member Sampson motion to withdrawal Ordinance 20-05; seconded by Member Cleveland; Vice President Lincoln Carr asked Legal regarding process. Motion members concur, motion failed unanimously by roll call vote.**

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 20-14** a resolution authorizing the Northwest Arctic Borough to issue General Obligation Refunding Bonds in the principal amount not to exceed the sum of \$2,100,000 to refund certain outstanding General Obligation Bonds of the Borough, fixing certain details of such bonds and authorizing their sale.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-14; recommend do pass. *Mrs. Sturm added the municipal market rate had not optimal to move ahead although soon will be favorable. If not, then this gets dropped.*

**Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 20-14, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

2. **Resolution 20-15** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the City of Ambler for Phase 1 of the Ambler Search and Rescue/Firehall Building, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-15; recommend do pass.

**Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-15, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

3. **Resolution 20-16** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the City of Ambler for led streetlights, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-16; recommend do pass.

**Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 20-16, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

4. **Resolution 20-17** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from Kotzebue Broadcasting, Inc. for Phase II of a Regional Broadcast Development Project, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-17; recommend do pass.

**Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-17, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

5. **Resolution 20-18** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Native Village of Selawik for Phase I of the Atauchikun Multipurpose Building, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-18; recommend do pass.

**Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 20-18, seconded by Member Oviok; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

6. **Resolution 20-19** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a ground lease with NANA Regional Corporation for the Kivalina school site, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-19; recommend do pass.

**Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 20-19, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

7. **Resolution 20-20** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting a two-million-dollar State of Alaska FY2020 Designated Legislative Grant for school construction and major maintenance, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-20; recommend do pass.

**Member Armstrong motion to approve Resolution 20-14, seconded by Member Swan; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

President Hadley mentioned there is ICC Food Steering Committee which is different than ICC where Member Cleveland and Member Loon are part of; he attended a couple meeting

*in the past although wasn't able to attend the past couple meeting due to other obligation. There is a teleconference on May 5<sup>th</sup>, if any of the Assembly members are interested just let him know.*

Member Sampson mentioned he is interested. Member Shroyer Beaver asked how often they meet. Vice President Lincoln Carr mentioned if interested contact President Hadley.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None held.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

*Mrs. Tanya Ballot, Selawik resident called to commend Mayor and staff; keep up the hard work and thank you for all the hard work on keeping the Region safe. Continue to hunker down, thank you; have a good day.*

*Mrs. Marlene Moto-Karl, Deering resident called concerned about federal lands; there are several airports by Deering where sport hunters go. Hope baby seals and walrus that are washed up were left for bear bait. Also, concerned about Maniilaq having free shots for dog; need for all the communities. If they send, they can find volunteers to give shots.*

*Mrs. Verna Westlake, Red Dog Teck Community Relations called to thank Mayor Nelson and all entities involved with the task force and allowing Teck to attend the weekly meetings. Commend the organizations in the Region for great work, thank you.*

*Ms. April Snyder called to asked if they will get monies from the \$8B of the Covid19 of the relief monies?*

### **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

*Member Armstrong mentioned good meeting; thank School District for calling in, thank Assembly for working ordinances and resolutions. Everyone fishing and duck hunting, be safe.*

*Member Oviok thank everyone for last couple days. Thankful for Borough, although mind with wife and family; prayers for mother in law. Congratulations for successful whaling captains in Pt. Hope. Condolences to those that lost loved ones. Good meeting, thank you to School District for updates, along with Covid19 updates. Thankful for funding for Multi-purpose building, thankful to work together. Are there funds for Selawik? Funds for those that have honey bucket because some families do not have transportation.*

*Member Joule mentioned good couple days, encourage everyone to work together. Family time we are enduring, can be tough at same time with our love as parents to our children. Hope after pandemic we can continue to play our role to our family which carries a long way. Is there any way we can support letters to encourage the lower of fuel prices since stock market are low to benefit our communities? Good luck to hunters, let someone know when your due back. Wash hands and be safe.*

*Member Cleveland mentioned good meeting. Thank School District for calling in, what an eye opening for our parents teaching; some comment after this they will be available to substitute. Thankful for airlines providing communities with freight, thankful for hunker down*

*from Borough Mayor and not from city mayor; affects the community when there is one traveling. Thankful for Teck for providing for the communities.*

*Member Swan mentioned they are hampered by high winds for whaling; wind working on ice. They travel up to 30-40 miles by snow machine; on behalf of the Kivalina Whaling Commission is requesting aid for gasoline or oil. Their President will request by letter.*

*Member Barr thank everyone for good meeting. There are concerns of the Kiana VIF application which she will check on behalf of the capital project. Thank you to School District for presentation. Have a good day. Vice President Lincoln Carr suggests community of Kiana contact the office, not through the Assembly member.*

Member Shroyer Beaver echo all the thank you stated, commend VIF committee and community for getting the monies. Thank NANA for working with Kivalina for the school, long process. Thank you to all essential workers, police, medical and airlines. We are fortunate to get out, careful while fishing. Congratulations to Pt. Hope and all the whales caught, do not forget us. To graduates of 2020, we are living in lifetime experiencing we may never see again. Bummed no graduation, but we are proud of you.

Member Loon thank Mayor and staff regarding working with incident command. To all graduates, congratulations also to parents. Thank you, Assembly, for good meeting, happy with accomplishments working together.

Member Sampson in Inupiaq. Thank you to Mayor and staff for work done. Thank Assembly for good meeting, thank Carl for incident command structure presented which is needed. To those of you if you have any questions; call the Borough. Thank Fritz for participating. We shall continue what Borough ask us to do, hunker down to avoid Covid19. Thank you.

*Elder Representative Swan mentioned good meeting, keep it up. Springtime is coming, be careful on ice during fishing or traveling. Have a good day. Have not had an Elder meeting.*

*Youth Representative Chase mentioned it is worth scolding out older sibling, who take care of younger sibling. They maybe our new teachers.*

Vice President Lincoln Carr thank Assembly for busy couple days and hard being on phone. Thank command team, Mayor and Incident Task Force team along with all entities. Reiterates still hunker down, those in the villages; critical to stay home, if go out go as family and not mingle. Important time to help medical staff to lessen their workload staying safe. To all graduates' high school and kindergarten, post your pictures, milestone of lifetime. Thank village involved on the task force, continue to stay home and work together. Call Borough at 442-8230 Task force non emergent number. Thank Assembly for full attendance, important part of leadership.

*President Hadley thank Vice President Lincoln Carr for running the meeting, important to continue these meeting. Thank Assembly for working together, at the end we work together. Thank City of Kotzebue for recommending hunkering down, hub of the villages. Thank Mayor and staff, incident command team and continue weekly meeting to handle information. Thank Clerk and Deputy, important to Borough. Be safe, important for everyone to wear*

*masks. Thankful City of Buckland and Buckland IRA encourage masks in public places. Would like to see if the NWALT resource committee can provide hand sanitizers in the villages at the public locations. Thank you to Assembly and Vice President Lincoln Carr.*

### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

Mayor Nelson mentioned Mr. Mathiasson contacted her regarding the Noatak solar project, they received a letter of support from Senator Murkowski. Hope to receive the \$3M grant. Congratulations to all that are graduating this 2020, accomplishing education. Welcome to Fritz Westlake as Community and Economic Development Director.

Mr. Westlake introduced himself, happy to continue working with and for you in his new position. Thank you.

Mayor Nelson mentioned Ms. Kameroff to provide an update of VPSO hires and accomplishments. *Ms. Kameroff congratulate Justin Scott who graduated from VPSO training yesterday, returning from Sitka today. He will attend two-week field officer training in Fairbanks in a couple weeks. Also, had quite a few applications although vigorously following through on.*

*Ms. Kameroff mentioned VPSO Souchoy Saephan had been hired recently and started yesterday, he will be stationed in Noorvik on a two week on and off. There are other applicants currently processing although this process requires fingerprinting is the hold up. Important to have open communications, majority of the paperwork have been processed. The VPSO coordinator position have been opened full time, number of applicants have been submitted and hopeful interview soon. Also, hope to have confirmed names end of May.*

*Mr. Saephan called to introduce himself, slow start with the pandemic and hope to get going soon. Thank you for willing to be part of the team, look forward to meeting everyone soon.*

Mayor Nelson asked Assembly how to address Resolution 20-21 that she turned down due to not submitted in on a timely manner based on deadlines. Although would like Assembly to discuss, think there is feedback on resolution. Should it be considered next meeting or discuss now. Vice President Lincoln Carr suggests at the next meeting.

Mayor Nelson mentioned Maniilaq sent a contractor's guidance, which she will forward to the Assembly and post on the website; recommend steps on bringing contractors to the Region. Thank everyone for working together, there are different levels of anxiety. Hunker down and be safe. Thank you.

*Member Armstrong thank Mayor, know been pushing for a VPSO. Thank you to Aucha too, hope Noorvik accept him and make him feel at home to protect the community. Will need more VPSO's in Kivalina, Noatak and Kiana. Know we can make it happen. Vice President Lincoln Carr expressed gratitude to have additional VPSO's, still our priority.*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Loon at 12:34 P.M.



