



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, September 22, 2020 – 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 Sampson provided the invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Sampson encouraged safety during fall time boating activities and to be sure and let family members or someone know your destination.

Member Loon encouraged everyone especially our leaders to use masks and practice social distancing while in a public place.

Member Carr thanked Member Loon and Sampson for their sharing in the Inupiaq language and she would like them to interpret what was said as many constituents don't understand the Inupiaq language.

Member Oviok encouraged everyone to be safe and support our youth at the cultural camp in Selawik.

Member Armstrong encouraged the young hunters about gun safety while participating in outdoor activities.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Lucy S. Nelson	Matt Mead	Angie Sturm	Siikauraq
Whiting	Tony Giardini, Triology	Wendy Chamberlain	Helena Hildreth
Fritz Westlake	Nate Kotch Jr.	Christine Hess	Aucha Kameroff
Marlene Moto Karl	Martha Hensley	Ramzi R. Fawaz, Ambler Metals	

Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivalieq, Kobuk Laugviik, Kotzebue Qikiqtasruk, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Selawik Akuliqaq, Shungnak Isiinaq



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Elia Nay, NANA Verna Westlake, Teck AK, Red Dog

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Nelson recommended to add Ordinance 20-09 Item M Introduction of Ordinances. She also would like to add Wendy Chamberlain, Lobbyist Update, to Item G Communication and Appearance.

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting minutes of August 25, 2020 as presented.

Member Loon motioned to approve minutes, Member Joule seconded; a roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Tony Giardini, Trilogy Metals and Ramzi Fawaz, Ambler Metals, LLC

Mr. Tony Giardini, Trilogy Metals, gave an introduction of Mr. Rami Fawaz, Ambler Metals, LLC, and who has recently been hired as President.

Mr. Fawaz briefly introduced himself and provided a background and employment history for the last ten years or so. He also gave an update of office locations and future plans for operation and development that includes an Arctic Project and Ambler region prospects. He gave an update on the Ambler Road Project access road with Alaska Industrial Development Export Authority (AIDEA).

2. Wendy Chamberlain, Consultant – Lobbyist

Ms. Wendy Chamberlain, provided a lobbyist update. She gave a brief outline of what the legislature will be facing this session in regards to the recent primary election since incumbents were defeated because of not supporting a full Permanent Fund Dividend. She also gave a brief review of the CBR savings account, earnings reserve account, Power Cost Equalization (PCE), school bond debt reimbursement, municipal assistance, VPSO, wildlife troopers and the tax increase on the oil companies which she stated is on the ballot. She reported that this will be a difficult session.



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**A ten minute break was taken at 10:25 am.
The meeting reconvened from break at 10:41 am.**

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 September 30, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMEGENCY ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 20-07an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Revenue and Finance Code.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 20-07 for enactment, seconded by Member Joule. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously with Members Loon and Swan absent during action.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Shroyer Beaver reported that they met in the BAF Work Session meeting and reviewed all the resolutions and ordinances that were presented and recommended do pass.

Member Sampson gave a brief update on the Alaska Municipal League and Rural Cap.

Member Carr gave a brief update on the weekly COVID 19 taskforce meetings. She also attended the Planning Commission and Land Committee and commented that she appreciated Mr. Joe Dallemolle's presentation with the Fish and Wildlife Service in regards to hunting activities in the borough.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Nelson allowed the Department Director's provide a brief report on the activities for the last month: Mr. Nathan Kotch Jr., Public Services, Mr. Fritz Westlake, Community and Economic Development, Ms. Aucha Kameroff, Public Safety, Ms. Siikauraq Whiting, Director of Planning, and Ms. Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer.



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Mayor Nelson gave a brief report on Mr. Ingemar Mathiasson's Energy Department. In addition, Mayor Nelson added that she had a meeting with Ms. Alyse Galvin, Congressional candidate, on September 15, 2020 to hear her purpose for running.

Member Armstrong requested that the Borough look into why the community of Noorvik hasn't filed a report or application with the Village Improvement Fund for any projects. Mr. Kotch reported they are working with Commissioner Stacy Jack on the VIC application process and the City of Noorvik and that the application deadline has been extended to October 16, 2020.

Member Sampson commented about the former Coastal Zone Management Program and does it have an effect on the existing classification program in this region. Ms. Whiting commented that she does not believe it will have an effect on the classification of the re-zoning.

Ms. Sturm, Borough Treasurer, reported they are preparing for the annual audit in the 3rd week in September. They have been working on the bond refunding for the 2010 Series Bond, now called the 2020 Series Bond, CARES Act Fund expenditures and the borough has till December 30, 2020 to spend the funds. Finally, she congratulated Ms. Jade Hill, Controller, for reaching five years working at the borough, she is a great asset to the Department.

President Hadley asked about the COVID Economic relief grant and who can apply. Mr. Fritz Westlake, (Community Economic Development) CED Director, reported that each household would be able to apply for some sort of economic relief and it will be available on the borough website soon. He also requested that a list of school board and assembly candidates running on the October 6, 2020 General Election ballot. Mayor Nelson briefly reviewed the General Election Notice and list of candidate's running.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Nelson recommended a Special Meeting to certify the 2020 Certification of Election results on October 12, 2020 at 9:00 am. She also recommended October 26-27, 2020 as the 4th Monday and Tuesday of the month for the next Regular meeting of the Assembly.

Member Sampson motioned, Member Joule seconded to approve the meetings of the Assembly: October 12, 2020 Special meeting of the Assembly at 9:00 am and October 26-27, 2020 for the next Regular Meeting. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously with Member Cleveland absent during action.



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**A fifteen minute break was taken at 10:28 am.
The meeting reconvened from break at 10:41am.**

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 20-08** an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code for the Frank R. Ferguson Scholarship Program, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-08, recommending approval.

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Ordinance 20-08 for first reading, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Ordinance 20-09** an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending sections of the Borough Investment Code and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-09, recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 20-09 for first reading, seconded by Member Cleveland. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously with Member Loon absent during action.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 20-62** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Services Agreement with Alaska Communication Services (ACS), to provide Internet services for the Borough Building.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-62, recommending approval.

Member Carr motioned to approve Resolution 20-62, seconded by Member Cleveland. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution 20-63** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Services Agreement with Alaska Communication Services (ACS) to provide IT Support Services for the Borough.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-63, recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 20-63, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.



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3. **Resolution 20-64** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly ratifying the Mayor's appointment of Cheryl Edenshaw to the Community and Economic Development Commission.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-64, recommending approval.

Member Carr motioned to approve Resolution 20-64, seconded by Member Joule. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Resolution 20-65** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly confirming the appointment of Tahayla Baker as Youth Advisory Representative to the Assembly.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-65, recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 20-65, seconded by Member Oviok. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Resolution 20-66** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a an FY21 Lease for VPSO Housing Use, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-66, recommend do pass.

Member Loon motioned to approve Resolution 20-66, seconded by Member Cleveland. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Resolution 20-67** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly ratifying the appointment of Election Judge Chairs for the 2020 General Election to be held on October 6, 2020.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-67, recommend do pass.

Member Carr motioned to approve Resolution 20-67, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Resolution 20-68** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a CARES Act expenditure for Kotzebue Broadcasting, Inc., and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-68 and recommended do pass.



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Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Resolution 20-68, seconded by Member Carr. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

8. **Resolution 20-69** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting Assembly Member Reggie Joule's resignation of Assembly Seat J, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-69 and recommended do pass.

Member Joule commented that he enjoyed serving on the Assembly and that it has been a learning experience. He added that Kotzebue will always be his home and that it is important at this time for him to be with his family as they come first.

Member Loon thanked Member Joule for his service on the Assembly. Member Swan commented that he is glad that he had the opportunity to work with him. Member Carr thanked Member Joule for his commitment to the region and she also thanked him for his involvement serving on the Assembly. Member Kirk thanked Member Joule for his participation as co-chair on the subsistence protection committee. Member Cleveland commented thanked him for his service to the region and will see him again in the political arena. Member Shroyer Beaver wishes Member Joule well and wished him everything but good luck. Member Sampson thanked Member Joule for his service to the people of this region and to the State of Alaska and he agrees that family comes first. Member Barr thanked Member Joule for his service and wishes him best of luck. Member Armstrong thanked Member Joule for his service and best wishes to his family. President Hadley thanked Member Joule for his service and working with him for the last two years has been a privilege. Mayor Nelson also thanked Member Joule for his service while she was also serving on the Assembly and that it was a pleasure to work with him. She thanked him for working with her administration.

Member Carr motioned to approve Resolution 20-69, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously with Member Loon absent during action.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

No audience comments.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Cleveland gave an update on the storage building in Ambler.



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Member Barr thanked everyone for a good meeting and the information shared. She expressed her concern about the COVID outbreaks and is hoping it will be addressed with the utmost priority.

Member Armstrong thanked Ms. Wendy Chamberlain, Consultant and Mr. Giardini, Ambler Metals for their update. He commented about the importance of public safety in the villages.

Member Swan commented about the barge service this summer to Kivalina and he is thankful that the Borough is working hard for their community.

Member Sampson commented that it is important to recognize that there are constituents who do not understand the English language. He suggests that the borough hire an Inupiaq linguist to translate important issues that impact the lives of those who live in this region.

Member Joule thanked everyone for the best wishes and condolences to those who lost their loved ones. He also thanked the assembly for doing a wonderful job thus far.

Member Shroyer Beaver reminded everyone to complete the 2020 census and she commented that we should review the scholarship funds in the future. She emphasized the importance of continuing to support the KOTZ radio as we rely on it a lot. Lastly, she encouraged those who are quarantining to continue to do.

Member Carr commented about the Eskimo language interpretation as we have a wide variety of those who cannot speak it and they are requesting that the prayer also be interpreted in the English language also. Member Carr gave an update on the COVID 19 taskforce and thanked Mayor Nelson and Ms. Kameroff for their work on putting VPSO's in the villages. Mayor Nelson also thanked the election judges for their good work coordinating the election on Primary Election Day, she thanked Member Joule for his service and believes that he will be back again. Member Carr commented about interested persons running for public office may be subjected to drug testing, she thanked KOTZ Radio station News Director and volunteers for their work.

President Hadley thanked the Clerks for their work on the packets and Mayor Nelson for her good work, and he gave his condolences to Thomas Washington's family.

Member Oviok expressed his condolences to family members and the importance of working together especially with important projects going on in our borough. He also



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mentioned the importance of the CARES Act funding as it helps our residents also during this pandemic crisis.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson thanked Ms. Tahayla Baker for her letter of interest to serve as the Youth Representative on the Assembly and congratulations on being accepted to Stanford University. She encouraged the residents complete the 2020 census, she elaborated and thanked everyone for their coordinated efforts for those who are on the COVID 19 taskforce, unified taskforce and the NWALT. She also thanked Maniilaq Association, and Northwest Arctic Borough School District, and NANA for their leadership during this public health disaster. She expressed her condolences to the families to those who have lost loved ones.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Swan motioned, Member Carr seconded to adjourn. With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:42 P.M.

Tale Nidue