



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, June 22, 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 Loon provided the invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Armstrong encouraged the hunters to teach the young ones about firearm safety and to use Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) while boating.

Member Sampson encouraged everyone to let the children use PFD's when they swim and to watch them carefully.

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. | Elia Nay | |
| Tahayla Baker, Youth Representative | | | |

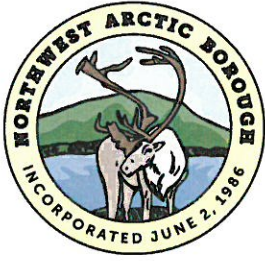
Members absent:

Kayden Ticket, Youth Representative – Excused

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned, Member Sampson seconded to excuse Kayden Ticket, Youth Representative, from the June 21-22, 2021 Regular Meeting. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

Introduction of Staff and Guests

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Lucy S. Nelson | Matt Mead | Angie Sturm | Eva Harvey |
| Helena Hildreth | Nate Kotch Jr. | Aucha Kameroff | Martha Hensley |
| Jaylen Rogers | Tom Atkinson | Tony Giardini | Fritz Westlake |
| Ingemar Mathiasson | Kathy Christy | Ramzi Fawaz | Liz Cravalho |
| Damon Schaeffer | Judy Stein | Willie Towksjhea | Shonna Greist |



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Matt Tecker

Wesley Early

Dennis Jennings

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Nelson requested to add Resolution 20-33 to Item N. Mayor Nelson also requested to add Ms. Kathy Christy, NWABSD Capital Projects update to Item G. and the discussion of Health Insurance to Item O. Lastly, she would like to add Department of Transportation (D.O.T) and Corp of Engineers who will provide an update on the Cape Blossom road right about 12:30 pm when the jet arrives.

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting minutes of May 25, 2021 as presented.

Member Sampson motioned to approve the May 25, 2021 Regular minutes as presented, Member Ballot seconded; a roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Ramzi Fawaz, Ambler Metals, Update

Mr. Fawaz provided an update on the field season for the Bornite Mine. He requested to be on the Regular meeting agenda in August where he will provide an update in person.

2. Kathy Christy, NWABSD Capital Projects Update

Ms. Christy gave a brief overview of the new Kivalina School.

3. Ingemar Mathiasson, Energy Coordinator Update.

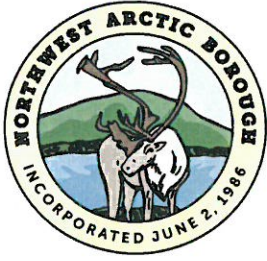
Mr. Mathiasson gave an update on energy projects within the last year.

Ms. Judy Stein, Kotzebue resident, thanked the Assembly for doing business for the Northwest Arctic Borough. She thanked the borough for the CARES Act Economic Relief fund assistance that has helped the Elders with groceries.

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.



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2. Financial Report, Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 21-06** - an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to amend Chapter 3.08.130 of the Northwest Arctic Borough Code, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson Ordinance 21-06, recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 21-06 for enactment, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Sampson gave a brief report on a recent meeting they had on the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) Inuit Food Security Program. He also attended a Rural Cap Special meeting regarding a change in upper management.

Member Carr reported that she attended a meeting with the Rasmusson Foundation and that it was well received as they discussed Rasmusson Grants that were given out to various places in the borough.

Member Armstrong commented that on June 7 he attended a Joint Maintenance and Construction Committee meeting. He also attended a joint Planning Commission/Lands/Subsistence and Protection committee meeting on June 14-15, 2021.

Member Loon reported that she also attended the joint Planning Commission/Lands/Subsistence and Protection committee meeting on June 14-15, 2021 and they discussed transporter and zoning issues and that it was a very good meeting.

Member Sampson commented that he also attended the Planning Commission/Lands/Subsistence Protection Committee meeting and a recommendation was to rezone a portion of Red Dog Mine as a majority of it is in the Title IX program that the Borough has.

Member Cleveland reported that he tried to call in for the JCMC meeting but wasn't able to connect and that he was glad Ms. Kathy Christy gave an update on the Kivalina school.

President Hadley reported that he attended a meeting with the North Slope Borough



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Mayor and Mayor Nelson to plan a joint meeting with the North Slope Borough in July.

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 regards to borough events, meetings, and activities on the Borough's Facebook page. She added that preparation for the Assembly Meeting and the Assembly Retreat scheduled to be held July 6-9, 2021 at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, AK.

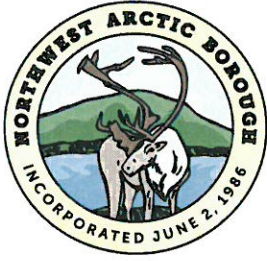
Mayor Nelson reported that the Human Resources (HR) and Grant Writer Update report are included in the packet. She highlighted the grants applied for in 2021.

Mayor Nelson reported that the Incident Command System (ICS) team and the Unified Command team meets on an as needed basis. The Emergency Order 5 will be expiring June 30, 2021 so a meeting is planned to discuss the plans for the future. We are currently at 50% capacity for gatherings and every entity has to have a mitigation plan in place for gatherings. We are currently at 52% for current vaccination rates for 1st doses and 48% for 2nd doses as of May 25, 2021 and 12-15 year old at 10% for 1st doses.

Mayor Nelson reported that the Unified Incident Command Team continues to meet as needed to discuss current changes with Center for Disease Control (CDC). Current gatherings are capped at 25% and recommendations were made to increase capacity to 50% by the team for enforcement through June 30, 2021. Maniilaq Health Center continues with vaccination of residents throughout the Northwest Alaskan communities and she reported that current vaccination rates for 1st doses are at 51% and 2nd doses at 47% as of May 11, 2021.

Mayor Nelson met with the City of Buckland and the local tribe leadership on May 13 & 17 to discuss the Buckland Flood Response via teleconference. She attended the Public Safety Commission meeting that was held on May 19, 2021 and one of the topics discussed were presentations from Mr. Kevin Reeve from the State of Alaska Local Emergency Planning Commission and Ms. Diana Thornton from the State of Alaska VPSO.

Mayor Nelson commented that staff has started their Flex Time Work schedule on June 1, 2021 until August 6, 2021 enabling employees to work four days a week equivalent to 37.5 hours a week, either with a Monday or Friday off. She also met with the North Slope Borough (NSB) Mayor Harry Brower to discuss an upcoming Joint meeting with the NSB Assembly and the next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2021 with NSB Mayor Harry



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Brower and their Assembly President. Topics of discussion for this joint meeting is to bringing back joint resolutions and arctic policy issues.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Nelson recommended a BAF Work session for Monday, July 26, 2021 at 1:00 pm and the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 9:00 am. Mayor Nelson reported that the suggested timeframe to hold a joint meeting with the North Slope Borough was the same dates as the Northwest Arctic Borough in Kotzebue and she added that they will be going back to their North Slope Borough Assembly to confirm those dates.

By unanimous consent of the Assembly the next meeting dates in July 26-27, 2021 was recommended, as set in code.

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

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 21-24** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Professional Services Agreement with Goldeneye Media Alaska.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-24 and recommending approval.

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Resolution 21-24, seconded by Member Sampson. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

2. **Resolution 21-25** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Professional Services Agreement with Wendy Chamberlain DBA Legislative Consultants in Alaska for lobbying, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-25 and recommending approval.

Member Barr motioned to approve Resolution 21-25, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Resolution 21-26** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a contract for Legal Services, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-26 and recommending approval.



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Member Carr motioned to approve Resolution 21-26, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Resolution 21-27** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly confirming authorized signatories for Borough Checks.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-27 recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-27, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Resolution 21-28** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting Assembly Member Elia Nay's resignation of Assembly Seat J, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-28 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-28, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Resolution 21-29** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract for construction of warm storage and renovation of the Old Clinic for VPSO Housing in Deering.

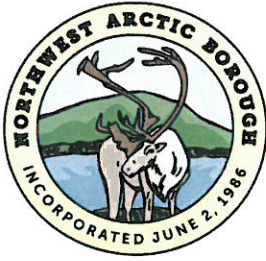
Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-29 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-29, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Resolution 21-30** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract with Bering Straits Development Company for repair of Noorvik Solar Panels, and related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-30 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-30, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.



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8. **Resolution 21-31** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a Professional services Agreement with Espelin & Associates LLC to provide Accounting Services, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-31 and recommending approval.

Member Armstrong motioned to approve Resolution 21-31, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

9. **Resolution 21-32** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Services Agreement with Alaska Janitorial S.F., Inc., to provide Janitorial Services for the Borough Building, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-32 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-32, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

10. **Resolution 21-33** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Professional Services Agreement Amendment with Eva Harvey DBA Tribal Business Consulting, to prepare a VIF report, and for related purposes.

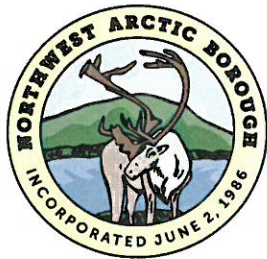
Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-33 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-33, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Health Insurance – Mayor Lucy Nelson provided health insurance information as requested at the Work Session meeting and referred to the Borough Code regarding health insurance. An interoffice memo was submitted to the Assembly after the March and April Regular meeting where the FY22 budget was reviewed. Mayor Nelson recommended two solutions for health care benefits in the memo and they both share the goal of reducing the unsustainable costs of health insurance moving forward. Mr. Mead, Legal Counsel, provided an assessment on the health insurance discussion.

Member Carr felt that there should have been more discussion with the Assembly on alternatives for health care benefits.



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Member Loon thanked Mayor Nelson for her explanation of the health care benefits and she reminded the assembly that these are public dollars and she approves the current benefits as it is.

Ms. Sturm reported that we provided the RISQ analysis report at the last two budget retreats.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Ms. Elizabeth Cravalho, NANA VP of Lands, thanked Members Sampson, Loon and Cleveland for their work with the ICC Food Security Project. Ms. Cravalho provided a brief NANA Trespass Program presentation on last year's trespass season and a general update on Land matters for the last year.

Mr. Willie Towksjhea, Kotzebue resident, expressed his concern about the importance of sobriety as he has been sober for 37 years.

Ms. Shonna Greist, Selawik resident, commented about the need for campsites for the younger people for the ages of 40 or older in Selawik, AK.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Armstrong expressed his condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. He thanked the Assembly and administration for a good meeting and have a safe summer.

Member Loon thanked the Assembly for a good meeting and to the presenters also for their presentations. She congratulated Mr. Nate Kotch on his retirement and thanked the staff for the good potlach. She encouraged the residents to be safe this summer by the waterways.

Member Swan thanked the borough staff and assembly for a good meeting. He reported he was weathered in at Pt. Hope during the Mayor's visit to Kivalina, as he attended his niece's whaling feast. The school is under construction and is looking for the coming year October 2022.

Member Shroyer Beaver sent her best wishes to Member Elia Nay and Mr. Nate Kotch and thanked them for their service and everything they have done over the years. She thanked Mr. Kotch for his work with the school and public service and she wished him good luck on his retirement. She commented that it was a pleasure to serve with Member Nay on the assembly and wish her and Nasruk Nay the best.

Member Barr extended her condolences to those who have lost loved ones. She thanked Mayor Nelson and the administration for a good meeting and to the presenters as well.



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She thanked Member Nay for serving on the assembly and also to Mr. Nate Kotch for all his work he has done for the borough.

Member Carr thanked President Hadley and Mayor Nelson for a good meeting and planning for the presentations with the updates to the Assembly. She is grateful to where our VPSO program is and to keep moving forward with it. She thanked Member Nay for her service and wished her family the best. She also thanked Mr. Nathan Kotch Jr. and his wife for his service and volunteerism to the youth and our communities. She thanked him for the good work done within the public services department. Member Carr thanked President Hadley for putting this meeting together with long discussions in the work session meeting, in terms of donations and cutting back. Lastly, she gave her condolences to those who have lost their loved ones and there will be celebrations of life in memory this summer.

Member Cleveland thanked everyone for a good meeting and thanked the administration who prepared for it. He gave his condolences to those who lost their loved ones and to continue to look at other resources for our employment needs. He thanked Member Nay for her service on the assembly and he thanked Mr. Nate Kotch for all his help to the community and the region.

Member Nay thanked everyone for their well wishes and that it has been an honor to serve on the Assembly and to work alongside the members. Even though we have moved away we will continue to serve our people in other way. She thanked Mr. Nate Kotch for all the work he has done over the years. She thanked Mayor Nelson for doing an excellent job in her role as Mayor as she has always admired her fiscal responsibility. Lastly, she thanked President Hadley for his mentorship during her brief time on the assembly.

Member Ballot thanked everyone for a good meeting and it is our role to take on challenges and responsibilities for the constituents in our borough. She wished member Nay the best and thanked Mr. Nate Kotzebue for his assistance and guidance. Lastly, she commented that she is looking forward to the retreat.

President Hadley thanked Mr. Nate Kotch for his good work that was done at the Borough and enjoy his retirement. He thanked Member Nay for sitting on the assembly and he enjoyed working with her and that she brought a lot of discussions to the table. He gave his condolences to those who have lost their loved ones.



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MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson thanked Mr. Nate Kotch for serving as the Public Services Director. She had a level of trust in him as he would carry out the responsibilities based on her expectations. We had a celebration yesterday with the assembly to honor his service and provided a certificate of appreciation for him. Mayor Nelson commented that she has known him on a personal and professional level over the years.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned, Member Armstrong seconded to adjourn. With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 1:17 P.M.

Helena Nudice