Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Telephonic Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 25, 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 Swan encouraged boating safety because of huge icebergs still floating.

Member Sampson encouraged everyone to be careful while conducting outdoor hunting and fishing activities.

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 at the time of roll call:
Kayden Ticket, Youth Representative

Introduction of Staff and Guests
Lucy S. Nelson       Matt Mead      Angie Sturm      Eva Harvey
Helena Hildreth      Nate Kotch Jr.   Aucha Kameroff    Martha Hensley
Jaylen Rogers        Shelly Wade     Ryan Anderson     Tony Giardini
Judy Chapman         Fritz Westlake   Wendy Chamberlain

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Mayor Nelson requested to add Recognitions to Item O. Other Business
Member Sampson motioned to approve the agenda as amended; Member Shroyer Beaver seconded. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES
Regular meeting minutes of April 27, 2021 as presented.

Member Loon motioned to approve the April 27, 2021 Regular minutes as presented, Member Armstrong seconded; a roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES
1. Ryan Anderson and Judy Chapman, Alaska Department of Transportation
   Mr. Ryan Anderson and Ms. Judy Chapman gave a project update of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Funding and the Cape Blossom Road.

2. Wendy Chamberlain, Lobbyist update
   Ms. Chamberlain, Lobbyist consultant, provided a lobbyist update on House and Senate appropriations funding.

3. Tony Giardini, Trilogy Metals, Inc.
   Mr. Giardini gave an update on Trilogy Metals and summarized the details on the 2021 summer field exploration season.

4. Shelly Wade, Agnew Beck, Comprehensive Plan Update
   Ms. Shelly Wade, Consultant, gave a brief update on the Northwest Arctic Borough Comprehensive Plan.

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.

   Ms. Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer, provided a summary of Expenditure and Revenue Financials for the month ending April 30, 2021.

A fifteen minute break was taken at 10:18 am.
The meeting reconvened from break at 10:37 am
ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Loon thanked the Mayor Nelson, Saima Chase and Carl Weisner and the organizations for the Incident Command meetings that were held. She was grateful for Maniilaq for the report on the percentages of vaccinations that have been given to date. She thanked the villages of Noatak and Kiana for calling in to the COVID19 taskforce meetings.

Member Sampson gave a brief report on the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) Inuich Food Security Program.

Member Swan reported on the May 13th the Native Village of Kivalina and the City Council met with the CRW contracting group concerning the Kivalina Master Plan and the possibility of relocating the village once the school construction is complete.

Member BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver commented that the BAF Committee met and reviewed the resolutions and ordinances presented to the Assembly for today’s action.

President thanked the Mayor and staff for the quick response and carrying out the village of Buckland’s declaration of disaster expediently. He thanked the Buckland’s leadership for working together.

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. A Director’s meeting was held on April 28 to recap the Assembly meeting, Budget Retreat, Employee Handbook procedures and Departmental updates.

Mayor Nelson reported that the Human Resources (HR) and Grant Writer Update report are included in the packet. She reported that the Borough was awarded $2.1 million to date from various organizations and they have applied for 3.5 million in grant awards.

Mayor Nelson reported that the Incident Command System (ICS) team meets on an as needed basis. They recently met with City of Buckland and State agencies regarding the Buckland flood and they will be extending Emergency Order 5 to May 31, 2021. Recent changes from CDC were considered to include that fully vaccinated residents can travel within the United States and do not require COVID-19 testing or quarantining but to take precautions while traveling.
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 attended an Alaska Conference of Mayors on March 23, 2021 to hear from Department of Administration Commissioner Kelly Tshibaka of which she highlighted recent changes to Department of Administration Department of Motor Vehicles. They also heard ACOM’s approach to an economic recovery and federal and state legislative processes.

Mayor Nelson reported she continue to have on-going Strategic planning meetings with Staff Directors during the months of April and May to move our actions forward with goals and objectives set in 2020. Plans are in place to hold a strategic planning retreat to discuss the assembly’s priorities and hold a budget retreat as well. Mayor Nelson also attended a Northwest Arctic Leadership Team (NWALT) meeting on March 30, 2021 to discuss topics related to the American Recovery Act Funding, State and Federal priorities and Co-Chair rotation. She added that the NWALT partners also gave updates and follow up on action items.

Mayor Nelson reported that on April 21, 2021 she attended the Regional Elders Council meeting to provide an update about Borough Business. She also attended a meeting with RISQ Consulting to discuss current Health Insurance Plans and AMT Health Plans. Mayor Nelson attended an invitation to the Arctic Maritime Transportation system meeting in Anchorage, Alaska on May 3-6, 2021 to discuss improvement solutions, maritime transportation, and the port as the Coast Guard will be designating ports in Alaska. She will be inviting the Coast Guard Admiral to provide a presentation to the Assembly.

Lastly, she met with Mr. Ramzi Fawas, Ambler Metals LLC, on May 12, 2021 via Microsoft Teams to provide updates about current activities in each respective organization.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING
Mayor Nelson recommended a BAF Work session for Monday, June 21, 2021 at 1:00 pm and the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 9:00 am.

By unanimous consent of the Assembly the next meeting dates in June 21-22, 2021 was recommended, as set in code.
INTRODUCTION OF 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 Swan motioned to approve Ordinance 21-06 for first reading, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 21-19** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving the unincorporated Community of Noatak for participation in the FY22 Community Assistance program.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-19, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported there was no recommendation for do pass.

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Resolution 21-19, seconded by Member Sampson. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution 21-20** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving An assembly donation under the FY22 budget for the Chukchi Consortium Library.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-20, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was not recommended do pass.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-20, seconded by Member Swan.

Member Carr motioned to amend Resolution 21-20 to change the donation amount from $100,000 to $25,000. Member Loon seconded the motion. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed by a majority with Member Swan voting NO.

3. **Resolution 21-21** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Professional Services Agreement with Deerstone Consulting LLC to update and supplement the Northwest Arctic Regional Energy Plan.
Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-21, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

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

4. **Resolution 21-22** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Approving and adopting an Arctic Policy for the Northwest Arctic Borough, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-22, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-22, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Resolution 21-23** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly confirming the mayor’s appointments to the Northwest Arctic Borough Planning Commission.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-23, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-23, seconded by Member Swan. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Recognition of Certificate of Appreciation – Mayor Lucy Nelson**

Mayor Nelson recognized and presented a Northwest Arctic Borough Certificate of Appreciation for Alaska State Trooper retiree Mr. Nasruk Nay for 27 years of public safety service to the State of Alaska and the Northwest Arctic Borough. Mr. Nasruk Nay thanked Mayor Nelson for the recognition and that it has been an honor to come back to the region and work at home for the last couple years.

Mr. McConnell presented an award on behalf of the Alaska School Activities Association which is made up of six regions, to retiree referee Nathan Kotch Sr. for 44 years of service for region I.

President Hadley thanked Mr. Nasruk Nay for inspiring everyone and the young people of the borough for his work with public safety and it is meaningful for that great
accomplishment. He also thanked Mr. Nathan Kotch Jr. for his many years of service as a referee to the young people and the region.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS
Mr. Craig McConnell, Kotzebue resident, thanked the Borough for supporting the CUAP program. He also thanked and congratulated Mr. Nasrul Nay for his retirement and he added he was a former student of his. He congratulated Mr. Nate Kotch for his contributions to this region refereeing and a big supporter for the Youth in our region.

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 spring.

Member Barr commented about the good discussions that were held within the last two days with good discussions. She thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for their good work in preparation for this meeting. Member Barr congratulated Mr. Nasrul Nay and Mr. Nate Kotch on their retirement.

Member Swan thanked the borough staff for continuing to work on the COVID situation and it is good to meet face to face again.

Member Loon thanked everyone for a good meeting and she commented about the importance of protecting the public funds. She thanked the Mayor and her staff for the reports and she thanked Member Sampson for his assistance in helping her understand the resolution.

Member Shroyer Beaver sent her condolences to the families who lost their loved ones recently. She is looking forward to the assembly retreat and she congratulated those who recently graduated. She congratulated Mr. Nasrul Nay and Mr. Nate Kotch on their retirement. She also congratulated the teachers who are also retiring and have put in many years of service for our children.

Member Swan thanked everyone for a good meeting and information for review.

Member Carr thanked everyone for a good meeting and she thanked Mayor Nelson and the COVID taskforce for their good work. She thanked Mayor Nelson and Ms. Erin Stephens for their good work in applying for grants for the Borough so that we can continue to serve our residents. She appreciated the quick emergency response to the City of Buckland and that she is looking forward to the retreat to work on the Assembly priorities. Member Carr thanked all the teachers as it has been a tough year with COVID
and she congratulated the teachers that have retired also. Lastly, Member Carr thanked Mr. Nasrak Nay for the years of service with the Alaska State Troopers and thanked Mr. Nate Kotch for his years of service refereeing and his contribution for our youth. She also expressed her condolences to those who lost their loved ones as there will be remembrances this summer.

Member Cleveland congratulated Mr. Nasrak Nay and thanked Mr. Nate Kotch for his service to our borough. He commented that he hears better with the Zoom app and he thanked the assembly members for their participation in the meeting. He expressed his condolences to the family’s that have lost their loved ones recently. Lastly, he thanked Ambler Principal Scott also for his good work and who will be moving to Kotzebue soon.

Member Ballot thanked everyone on the radio listening to the meeting and who have been giving support for those who have lost their loved ones in Selawik. She congratulated those who have graduated from Kindergarten, 8th grade, high school and college. She encouraged them to go to training or further their education in college and prepare themselves to take over the good paying jobs. She congratulated the retirees and she thanked the Mayor and her staff for the great work they do.

Youth Representative Tahayla Baker commented about the good website called the UAA cancer awareness project as they spread awareness about ways to prevent cancer and she encouraged the youth to take the time to review it. She congratulated Mr. Nasrak Nay for his contribution as a visible person in the community that we can look up to in his position with the Alaska State Troopers. She thanked those who have completed their first year of college as it was challenging this year for everyone. Lastly, she thanked the Assembly for a productive meeting.

Chair Hadley thanked the teacher retirees for their years of service and he thanked Mr. Nate Kotch and Mr. Nasrak Nay for their contribution to our region. He expressed his condolences to those who have lost their loved ones and that we keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Lastly, he thanked the Assembly for working together.

MAYORS COMMENTS
Mayor Nelson thanked the presenters from the Work Session and Regular meeting as we are excited of the construction plans for the Cape Blossom road that will begin this summer and the airport apron project. She thanked the Assembly for approving the Arctic Policy resolution as it will assist us in the future with arctic infrastructure and programs. She thanked the Assembly for working with the administration and that she looks forward to a future joint meeting with the North Slope Borough. Mayor Nelson reported that she is also looking forward to the Assembly retreat so that we can work on our strategic planning.
and priorities and she thanked everyone who called in to thank the two retirees, Mr. Nate Kotch and Mr. Nasruk Nay.

ADJOURNMENT
Member Shroyer Beaver motioned, Member Loon seconded to adjourn. With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:13 P.M.