



# 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, October 26, 2021 – 9:00 A.M.  
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

## CALL TO ORDER

President Hadley called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

## INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Loon provided the invocation.

## SAFETY MOMENT

Member Armstrong encouraged everyone to watch the ice conditions as some spots are thin.

Member Loon gave a friendly reminder to all to practice safety measures and use face masks.

Member Carr encouraged everyone to remind the children to stay off the thin ice and to scold them if you have to.

Mr. Carl Weisner, Public Services Director, gave an update on COVID19 vaccinations that are available at this time and the importance of practicing safety measures that will help us go on a downward trend with this pandemic. He gave an update of active cases from the Maniilaq Medical Center's website that is done every Monday.

## ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

### Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Tanya Ballot	Delores Barr	Miles Cleveland
Sandy Shroyer Beaver	Hannah Loon	Walter Sampson	Dood Lincoln Carr
Nathan Hadley Jr.	Austin Swan Sr.	Reid Magdanz	

### Assembly Members absent at the time of roll call:

Kayden Ticket, Youth Representative	Tahayla Baker, Youth Representative
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### Introduction of Staff and Guests

Dickie Moto Sr.	Matt Mead	Angie Sturm	Eva Harvey
Helena Hildreth	Carl Weisner	Jaylynn Rogers	Saima Chase
Fritz Westlake	Elizabeth Ferguson	Hans Nelson	Jimmy Brown

Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivalieq, Kobuk Laugviik, Kotzebue Qikiqtaruk, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Selawik Akulibaq, Shungnak Isifmaq



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Tessa Baldwin  
Will Wiese  
Verna Westlake  
John Chase

Corey Mulder  
Ramzi Fawaz  
Elia Nay  
Willie Goodwin Jr.

Greta Schuerch  
Tony Giardini  
Alvin Iyatunguk Sr.

Wendy Chamberlain  
Marie Greene  
Bonita Barr

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Moto requested to add Resolution 21-60 to Item O, add Ordinance 21-12 to Item N., and Executive Session. Ms. Jaylynn Rogers requested to add Lobbyist Update from Ms. Wendy Chamberlain and Ambler Metals Update by Mr. Ramzi Fawaz to Item H. Member Sampson requested to add Dewline Radar Site to Item P.

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

### REORGANIZATION – ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Mr. Matt Mead reported that we will start with the President/Chair of the Assembly and he gave a brief refresher on election of officer's procedure.

#### Nominations for President/Chair:

Member Carr nominated Member Hadley. Member Hadley accepted the nomination.

**Member Barr motioned to close the nominations; Member Carr seconded. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### Nominations for Vice-President/Chair:

Member Swan nominated Member Sampson. Member Sampson accepted the nomination. Member Loon nominated Member Carr. Member Carr accepted the nomination.

**Member Swan motioned to close the nominations; Member Ballot seconded. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.**

President Hadley thanked the Assembly for their confidence in him and he'll do his best as he takes this role seriously. He commented that he is looking forward to working with Mayor Moto with the opportunities ahead. Mayor Moto congratulated President Hadley. Member Carr congratulated President Hadley and she appreciates the work he has done as it takes a lot of effort.



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Ms. Helena Hildreth, Borough Clerk, counted the votes of the Assembly. Member Carr received seven votes and Member Sampson received four votes for Vice-President/Chair.

Vice President Carr thanked the Assembly and she is looking forward to working with President Hadley, Mayor Moto and the administration.

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting minutes of September 29, 2021 as presented.

**Member Carr motioned to approve the September 29, 2021 Regular minutes as presented, Member Loon seconded. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.**

## COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

### 1. Retirement Recognition – Alvin Iyatunguk Sr., SAR/Fire Services

Ms. Saima Chase, Public Safety Administrator, would like to recognize Mr. Alvin Iyatunguk Sr. who has volunteered his time of over 25 years and is retiring from the Search and Rescue and the Deering Fire Department. Mr. Jimmie Brown, SAR Coordinator, thanked Mr. Iyatunguk for his years of service as SAR President in Deering, Alaska and that it was an honor to work with him and he presented him with a plaque of appreciation and a gift from the Northwest Arctic Borough SAR.

Mr. Hans Nelson, Fire Safety Coordinator, also thanked Mr. Iyatunguk for his years of service as a Battalion Chief with the Fire Department in Deering, AK. He presented a letter, plaque of appreciation and dedication and a gift on behalf of the Northwest Arctic Borough.

Mr. Alvin Iyatunguk Sr. thanked Mayor Moto, Assembly and staff. He commented that it has been his honor to serve in both capacities as SAR President and the Battalion Chief for the Fire Department in Deering, Alaska. He commented that at times it was difficult in times of need, but it was important to help the community as best as he can. The important thing was to be prepared when involved in a search especially for his team and to those who needed help. He is happy to have the men and women to step up to serve both on the SAR and Fire department. They did the best they can to also help those in the region from other villages. He will be willing to continue support the SAR and Fire Department even though he will be retired.

President thanked Mr. Iyatunguk and that his knowledge is very valuable especially to share it with those who are presently volunteering.



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Mayor Moto thanked Mr. Iyatunguk and to Ms. Bonita Barr for allowing him to contribute his time for our region. Mr. Iyatunguk thanked his wife and family for putting up with him and has always supported him.

### 2. Recognition – Eva June Wicken, Lucy Nelson

Ms. Jaylynn Rogers, Administrator to the Mayor, presented to her children, Doug and Trisha, the family of the late Ms. Eva June Wicken, a plaque of recognition and appreciation for her years of service with the Maniilaq Realty Program and serving the residents of our region.

Member Carr thanked her family in memory and recognition of Ms. Eva June Wicken for her years of service with the Maniilaq Realty Program.

Member Shroyer Beaver commented that she had the pleasure of working with Ms. Eva June and she will be truly missed at Maniilaq Association.

Ms. Jaylynn Rogers also recognized former Mayor Lucy Nelson thanking and recognizing her for the work she has done for the Northwest Arctic Borough.

Member Carr thanked former Mayor Nelson for all the work she has done bringing accountability and respect to the borough plus keeping our finances in order.

President Hadley thanked Mayor Nelson for her work and leadership at the borough and it has been an honor also serving with her as a fellow assembly member.

Member Loon thanked Mayor Nelson for the work she has guided us through understanding the budget, reserves and sustainability fund. We have established a trust relationship and is thankful she had the background with understanding of the budgets.

Ms. Angie Sturm thanked Mayor Nelson for the work she has done for the last three years as she had expected her team to work together and perform.

Mayor Moto thanked former Mayor Nelson for her work at the borough from the administration.

### 3. Ms. Wendy Chamberlain, Lobbyist update

Ms. Chamberlain congratulated the new Chair, Vice Chair and new Mayor Moto. Ms. Chamberlain gave an update from her latest report on ARPA Bill funds and a legislative update.



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#### 4. Mr. Ramzi Fawaz, Ambler Metals

Mr. Fawaz congratulated Mayor Moto on his successful election as the new Mayor and to President Hadley and Vice President Carr on their appointments to the Assembly. He also thanked former Mayor Nelson for good work and cooperation throughout the years. He congratulated Mr. John Lincoln as the incoming CEO and President of NANA as that is a great achievement. He provided an update on Ambler Metals operations this summer season, closure for the fall and annual plans for next year.

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

#### 1. Financial Report, Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer

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

#### 2. 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.

### **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

Member Loon reported that she's been attending the COVID taskforce meetings every Thursday at 1:30 PM. President Hadley commented that they learn about the viruses at these meetings and he encouraged the cities and IRA's to call into the Unified Taskforce meetings every Thursday's. Member Carr reported she attended the Planning Commission and Lands Committee meeting and she thanked Ms. Eva Harvey and her staff for their good work in the Planning Department.

### **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Dickie Moto Sr. reported that he will allow each Director to provide updates from their respective departments. Mr. Carl Weisner, Public Services and Acting Director of Public Safety, Mr. Fritz Westlake, Community and Economic Development Director, Eva Harvey, Planning Department Director briefly highlighted their reports that was included in the meeting packet. Mayor Moto thanked the Assembly and President Hadley for working with the administration and that we will continue to provide services. He traveled to four villages to conduct inspections for the Public Services Department. He reported that he traveled to Ambler, Shungnak and Kiana with D.O.T Commissioner and met with them as an observer.

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

Mayor Moto recommended a Regular meeting on November 22-23, 2021 with the BAF Work session Meeting on Monday, November 22, 2021 at 1:00 pm and the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 9:00 am.



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**By unanimous consent of the Assembly the next meeting dates of November 22-23, 2021 were recommended, as set in code.**

## INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

**1. Ordinance 21-12** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Chapter 3.20 of the Borough Code to clarify calculation of Mayoral Leave, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Moto summarized Ordinance 21-12 and recommended approval.

**Member Carr motioned to approve Ordinance 21-12 for first reading with enactment at the next Regular meeting, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.**

## RESOLUTIONS

**1. Resolution 21-56** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Confirming authorized signatories for Borough Checks.*

Mayor Moto summarized Resolution 21-56 and recommended approval.

**Member Loon motioned to approve Resolution 21-56, seconded by Member Sampson. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.**

**2. Resolution 21-57** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Approving a Village Improvement Fund application from opt-in Kiana to renovate a community building, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Moto summarized Resolution 21-57 and recommending approval.

**Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Resolution 21-57, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously with Member Barr abstaining from action.**

**3. Resolution 21-58** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund application from Kotzebue Electric Association for the Kotzebue 100% renewable Power Project to purchase wind turbine tower base sections, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Moto summarized Resolution 21-58 and recommending approval.



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**Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-58, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously with Member Carr and Member Magdanz abstaining from action due to being members of the Kotzebue Electric Association (KEA) Board of Directors.**

**4. Resolution 21-59** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Approving a Village Improvement Fund application from the Native Village of Noatak to fund a High Penetration Solar and Battery Project, and for related purposes.

Mayor Moto summarized Resolution 21-59 and recommending approval.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-59, seconded by Member Swan. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Resolution 21-60** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Urging Congressional approval of the State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act.

Mayor Moto requested that Mr. Matt Mead, Legal Attorney, summarize Resolution 21-60 and recommending approval.

**Member Carr motioned to approve Resolution 21-60, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### OTHER BUSINESS

#### Dewline Radar Site

A discussion was held by the Assembly in regard to a United State Air Force and the public meeting in regard to a Dew Line Station property owned by the Air Force in Kotzebue, Ak. A Liaison of the Airforce, Mr. Tommy Baker, started the meeting along with Col. Cornwell in regard to protecting the withdrawal area and it will be vacated the first of November. Mr. Sampson commented that they held the meeting with no documents such as maps of the land but only discussions were on the latitude and longitude of the facility. Currently, Mr. Dempsey Woods, local resident, uses the property to keep his dog team and assists the elder's and youth with salmon that he gets in his net in the summer season. Mr. Woods has been asked to vacate the property by the U.S. Airforce and Mr. Sampson believes that the highwater mark is above the Mr. Woods tent frame on the beach. Mr. Willie Goodwin encouraged the mayor to meet with the city, NANA Regional Corporation and the school district to see if we can come up with a solution, as this is a hardship on our people.



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Member Sampson recommended that the mayor call the leadership of major organizations and get in touch with our Alaska delegation and request to extend the deadline date of November 1 and hold a public hearing.

**A ten-minute break was taken at 10:50 am.**

**The meeting reconvened from break at 11:04 am.**

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Moto called an Executive Session to discuss the AMDIAP litigation.

**Member Loon motioned, Member Armstrong seconded to enter into Executive Session for reasons stated. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Entered into Executive Session at 1:39 pm.**

**Adjourned Executive Session at 2:12 pm.**

President Hadley reported that no decisions were made.

### AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Ms. Jeanne Cyrus, Kiana resident and on behalf of the Youth, thanked the VIF Commission and the Borough Assembly for the Opt-in Youth funding that was approved to renovate the community building. She hopes the Assembly knows the difference they are making for the Youth. She thanked everyone who asked the hard questions and the youth who pushed for this funding, and they will make them proud.

Ms. Sophie Foster, Kotzebue resident, commented about a recent death and that the hospital did not conduct a COVID test on the deceased person and the daughter insisted they do one. The did come out positive and that 4-5 people in the household are positive and walking around town.

Ms. Bree Swanson, Maniilaq Association, commented that she serves on the Wellness Task force and they request that Mr. Hans Nelson continue to serve on the Task Force Committee. They would like to do a presentation at the Assembly meeting in November and ask for their continued support.

Ms. Marie Greene, VIC Madam Chair, thanked the Assembly for their actions in regard to the approval of the VIC funds for Noatak, Kiana and Kotzebue. She also commented that VIC report be included in in the Assembly Packet so they can be aware of the percentages of funds that the communities have received, over 22 million dollars have been awarded



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so far since the inception of the Village Improvement Commission in 2017.

### **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Member Armstrong thanked everyone for a good meeting and discussions and is looking forward to working with the assembly, Mayor Moto and administration on issues that affects the communities.

Member Swan thanked the staff and assembly for a good meeting session again. He congratulated the President and Vice President to their seats. Member Swan commented about the road project and he believes the Borough should do what they can to move forward.

Member Shroyer Beaver congratulated everyone who got on the assembly and also to the new Mayor Moto as we look forward to working with him. She commented that she appreciated having an award ceremony, the importance of recognizing those who are active in our region, and some for many years. She also commented about the ARPA funds everyone is receiving and encouraged them to spend it wisely and to take care of their children. She commented about the CUAP funds and to continue it as it cuts down on our water and sewer bills. Member Shroyer commented about the VPSO program and public education, who unfortunately, we were set up to fail with it and the governor who did not support public education.

Member Barr appreciated all the updates, and she is looking forward to the Assembly as we understand the work we have ahead of us is important. She encouraged everyone to abide by the local mandates and she is looking forward to the next meeting.

Member Cleveland congratulated Member Vice President Carr and President Hadley and he is looking forward to working with Mayor Moto. He commented that during our Assembly voting process, we should vote yes or no and not in our Native language, as it may become an issue one day with our younger generation.

Member Magdanz thanked everyone for their support as he is on a learning curve with the process. He congratulated President Hadley and Vice President Carr and is looking forward to their leadership over the next year. He thanked Mayor Moto and his staff for their updates and that we need to continue to work on the VPSO issue over the coming months. He commented about Ms. Wendy Chamberlains lobbyist update and the importance of the federal dollars that are coming our way and that we need to take advantage of it. He is glad we are taking action to support our community member in regard to the Dewline Site and that when outside agencies come to our community, they come in the right way. Lastly, he encouraged everyone to be safe as we transition into



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freeze up.

Member Ballot expressed her condolences to those who lost their loved ones due to the COVID and she encouraged everyone to take the pandemic seriously to protect our loved ones. She congratulated Mayor Moto and President Hadley, and Vice President Carr and we look forward to their leadership and working together. She thanked the staff for their reports and reminded everyone that on November 1-2 will be the NW Arctic Subsistence Advisory Council will be meeting on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. She encouraged our leadership in the communities to call in and give their input on the matter as we need to protect the herd, as we subsist from that caribou herd.

Member Sampson congratulated Mayor Moto and he is looking forward to working with him and congratulated President Hadley and Vice President Carr. He thanked the staff for their reports and we can start thinking of how we can utilize the federal dollars and he thanked Mr. Weisner for his COVID reports as it takes a lot of effort in that regard. He thanked the Assembly for a good meeting.

Member Carr thanked Mayor Moto and moving forward with the administration and setting his priorities as stated in his report. She thanked the COVID Task Force for their updates and the importance of getting vaccinated for your family's sake. She thanked Madam Chair Greene and the VIC Commissioners for doing an excellent job and also to Ms. Jeanne Cyrus and the Youth who are working together for their community. She commended Mr. Iyatunguk for his years of service on SAR and Fire Department Volunteer in Deering, Alaska and also the frontline workers such as the Health Aides and others in the health field. She congratulated Mr. John Lincoln for his new position as President at NANA and that we need to take ownership and work together. She thanked President Hadley for running the Assembly meeting for the last few days.

President Hadley thanked the Clerk's Office for their good work providing information to the Assembly as the last few weeks have been very busy with the transition. He commented that his support goes to Mr. Dempsey Woods as the direction from the Assembly is to address this issue. He expressed his condolences to those who have lost their loved ones due to COVID and he thanked Mr. Charles Foster for his encouragement. He thanked the Assembly for their support and he will do his best to represent the borough.

### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

Mayor Moto thanked the Assembly and staff for their hard work moving forward and providing information. He would like to help the people of our borough and he will be traveling to the villages soon to listen to the needs and concerns.



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### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Carr motioned; Member Swan seconded to adjourn. With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.

*Helene Hudre*

