Northwest Arctic Borough

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Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Telephonic Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 29, 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 Cleveland provided the invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT
Member Armstrong encouraged boating safety and the importance of showing the younger generation gun safety measures.

Member Shroyer Beaver reminded residents to watch out for pedestrians walking on our new crosswalks and sidewalk on third street.

Mr. Carl Weisner, Public Services Director, announced that Phizer vaccine booster shot is available at the public health clinics.

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. Tahayla Baker, Youth Representative

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned, Member Armstrong seconded to excuse Member Swan from the September 29, 2021, Regular Meeting. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Assembly 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 Carl Weisner Aucha Kameroff Jaylynn Rogers
Fritz Westlake Hiram Walker Tony Giardini Brittney Sweeney
Ingemar Mathiasson Les Yesnik Elizabeth Ferguson

Ambler Ilisaajuaq, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipmitchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivaliieq, Kobuk Laugvii, Kotzebue Oqiqtaruk, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Selawik Akulivik, Shungnak Isimaq
A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Acting Mayor Carl Weisner requested to add Ordinance 21-04am01 to Item M. He also requested to remove Resolution 21-52 from Item O.
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 August 24, 2021 as presented.

Member Ballot motioned to approve the August 24, 2021 Regular minutes as presented, Member Cleveland seconded. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Brittney Sweeney, Fish & Wildlife
Ms. Brittney Sweeney, Fish & Wildlife Outreach Specialist for the Selawik Wildlife Refuge along with Mr. Will Wiese gave a brief update the Fish and Wildlife operations.

2. Les Yesnik, Tek Alaska.
Mr. Yesnik, Red Dog Mine General Manager, provided an update on the Red Dog Mine operations that includes the pandemic issues, water volume challenges, and production and shipping.

3. Tony Giardini, Trilogy Metals
Mr. Giardini provided an update on the Ambler Access Road within the Ambler Mining District.

A ten-minute break was taken at 10:18 am.
The meeting reconvened from break at 10:31 am.

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

ASSEMBLY REPORTS
Member Loon reported that she attended the Planning Commission meeting on the first week of September and the Incident Command Meeting also.

MAYORS REPORT
Acting Mayor Carl Weisner reported that administration continues to have Staff and Director’s meetings virtually and in person. They continue to provide ongoing updates to the Borough website in regard to borough events, meetings, and activities on the Borough’s Facebook page. He added that they continue to hold Director’s meetings as needed and in preparation for the Assembly BAF Work Session and Assembly Regular Meeting. Acting Mayor Weisner added that Mayor Nelson has been working with Ms. Jaylynn Rogers, Administrator, regarding setting up meetings and development of the human resources department.

Mr. Weisner reported that the Unified Command plans to meet today at 1:00 pm and a follow up meeting with the Incident Command Taskforce on Thursday the 30th. He announced the incentivization raffle prizes for the villages to administer from the mayor’s office to encourage vaccinations of residents. Ms. Saima Chase, Public Safety Administrator, gave a brief update on the Boroughs’ response to the pandemic. Mr. Weisner then allowed NAB Directors of Planning, Public Services, Community and Economic Development, Public Safety and Clerks office to provide brief updates from their respective departments.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING
Mayor Nelson recommended a Special Meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021, at 9:00 am to certify the election results of October 5, 2021. A Regular meeting on October 25-26, 2021 with the BAF Worksession Meeting on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 1:00 pm and the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 9:00 am.

By unanimous consent of the Assembly the next meeting dates of October 25-26, 2021 were recommended, as set in code.
INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 21-05am01** an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line-item budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2022.

Ms. Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer, summarized Ordinance 21-05am01 and recommended approval.

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Ordinance 21-05am01 for first reading with enactment at the next Regular meeting, seconded by Member Carr. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

2. **Ordinance 21-04am01** an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishing and adoption of the line-item budget amendment for FY22 Village Improvement Fund.

Ms. Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer, summarized Ordinance 21-04am01 and recommended approval.

Member Carr motioned to approve Ordinance 21-04am01 for first reading with enactment at the next Regular meeting, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 21-49** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly ratifying the appointment of Election Judge Chairs for the 2021 General Election to be held on October 5, 2021.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-49 and recommended approval.

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Resolution 21-49, seconded by Member Cleveland. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

2. **Resolution 21-50** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly ratifying and extending the Mayor’s Declaration of Disaster Emergency Proclamation for COVI-19 and the Delta Variant, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-50 and recommending approval.
Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-50, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Resolution 21-51** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving remaining cares act expenditures, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-51 and recommending approval.

Member Loon motioned to approve Resolution 21-51, seconded by Member Barr. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously with President Hadley abstaining from action.

4. **Resolution 21-53** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Approving an assembly donation under the FY22 budget for Kotzebue Broadcasting, Inc.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-53 and recommending approval.

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Resolution 21-53, seconded by Member Carr. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Mr. Willie Towksjhea, Kotzebue resident, commented about the problem of homelessness population in Kotzebue. He thanked the young people from Kotzebue IRA who cleaned his yard, as they did a good job. He thanked the health aides in the villages for doing a good job helping families with sick loved ones and that they need to be recognized.

Ms. Minnie Foster, Buckland resident, commented about the issue of the caribou and the disruption from air traffic it is causing with their migration. She asked if the borough would be able to provide assistance with Unit 23. Mr. Weisner commented that they will be contacting them to relay this message.

**ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Member Armstrong thanked everyone for a good meeting, and he gave his condolences to those who recently lost loved ones. He thanked the administration for continuing to work with safety measure plans and thanked the Assembly for their participation in this meeting.

Member Shroyer Beaver expressed her condolences to those who have lost their loved ones and she also thanked those who have came to the meeting. She reminded everyone
to use the new sidewalks and to always be aware of pedestrians using on the crosswalks.

Member Barr expressed her sincere condolences for those who suffered loss and she also thanked the administration who have been working to curb the variant surge we are seeing right now. She is urging everyone to curb their travel until the surge slows or passes and that we need to take responsibility for our own wellbeing.

Member Dood Carr thanked the Assembly Members and administration for these last few days meeting in regard to the budget. She commented about PPE equipment that was sent to the villages and if it included Kotzebue. She thanked the COVID Taskforce and village taskforce members for their good work. She also asked with the deaths that occurred due to the COVID pandemic, how many were vaccinated or not. Member Carr commented that she supported the KOTZ Radio donation as it is a good means of communication for our villages. She addressed the VPSO issue and the importance of Public Safety for our residents. Mr. Weisner reported that they have applied for a federal grant for the PPE supplies that was sent out to the villages. Mr. Weisner commented that he does not have the answer for the six deceased people in the Maniilaq Service area if they were vaccinated or not.

Member Cleveland thanked everyone for a good meeting for the last few days and he expressed his condolences to families who lost their loved ones. He encouraged that we have to continue to keep on top of what we are doing because of the hard times we are experiencing. He commented that they have not seen any caribou in their area and that our families will be feeling it this year. He commented that we need to be kept up to date of the road to the East, regarding the Ambler Mining District.

Member Ballot sent her sincere condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. She thanked the administration for their hard work, and she encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and stay safe. She encouraged that we need to get more vocal in regard to Unit 23 caribou issue so that we can stand our ground and protect our food source.

Youth Representative Tahayla Baker commented that she is finally on campus at Stanford University. She thanked the Assembly and the region for making it possible for her to be in college. She also commented that if there are any class recommendations for her to take from anyone, please let her know. Lastly, she encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and the importance of working together to protect everyone.

Vice President Sampson thanked the Assembly for a good meeting and that COVID 19 is still among us, and he expressed his appreciation to the doctors and nurses for their service to assist our residents. He thanked Ms. Baker for her comments in regard to her
studies. He thanked those who share and provide their food with others.

President Hadley also thanked the healthcare workers for assisting the residents during this pandemic. He thanked the great reports from the Director's and also to Borough Treasurer Ms. Angie Sturms for assistance with the budget during the budget retreat. Lastly, he thanked Acting Mayor Weisner for stepping in.

Member Loon expressed her condolences to the family's who lost their loved ones and wished Mr. Willie Towksjhea a Happy Birthday. She also thanked him for addressing the Assembly when he feels there is a need to. She thanked Weisner for the information about the homelessness partnerships with other organizations in Kotzebue. She thanked Ms. Minnie Foster and Member Ballot for their concern about the caribou issue in Unit 23. Lastly, she thanked Member Shroyer Beaver and staff for their assistance in running the budget retreat meetings. She also encouraged everyone to be safe, get vaccinated and hunker down.

MAYORS COMMENTS
Acting Mayor Weisner commented that Mayor Nelson has been out of the office for medical reasons, and he is glad to say that he can now turn the meeting over to Mayor Nelson, who is in attendance telephonically.

Mayor Nelson thanked the Acting Mayor Weisner for overseeing the office during her absence and thanked the Assembly and the administration for working together to move the Borough forward.

She thanked Ms. Tahayla Baker for calling in and is grateful that she is attending college and encouraged her to study politics incase someday it may be of interest to her. Mayor Nelson commented that we will be publicizing a notice for two Youth Representatives to serve with the Assembly. Mayor Nelson reported they will be recognizing the late Eva Wicken Sampson for her years of service with the Maniilaq Association Realty Department and at the next meeting she announced we will be presenting a certificate of appreciation to her family. Condolences were expressed to the family by Mayor Nelson. She thanked Mr. Towksjhea for letting his concerns known during the Assembly meetings and to Ms. Foster for her concern about the caribou issue also. She thanked Mr. Kayden Ticket for his service as a Youth Representative on the Assembly. She encouraged that getting vaccinated lessens the severity of the symptoms and it can also save lives as she was tested positive and experienced the sickness herself. Mayor Nelson thanked the Assembly and the Administration for working together for our public service to the people.

ADJOURNMENT
Member Loon motioned; Member Armstrong seconded to adjourn. With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:23 P.M.

Helena Vildretz