



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, April 27, 2021 – 9:00 A.M.
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

President Hadley called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Loon provided the invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Sampson requested that everyone be careful when out traveling with snow machine with the spring thaw happening.

Member Loon advised that we continue to practice safety measures with the COVID19 pandemic that still going on.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Tanya Ballot	Delores Barr	<i>Austin Swan Sr.</i>
<i>Miles Cleveland</i>	Sandy Shroyer Beaver	Hannah Loon	Walter Sampson
<i>Dood Lincoln Carr</i>	Nathan Hadley Jr.	<i>Elia Nay</i>	
<i>Tahayla Baker, Youth Representative</i>		<i>Kayden Ticket, Youth Representative</i>	

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Lucy S. Nelson	<i>Matt Mead</i>	<i>Angie Sturm</i>	<i>Eva Harvey</i>
Helena Hildreth	Nate Kotch Jr.	<i>Aucha Kameroff</i>	Martha Hensley
Jaylen Rogers	Elizabeth Ferguson	<i>Greta Schuerch</i>	<i>Shelly Wade</i>
<i>Ramzi Fawaz</i>	<i>Tony Giardini</i>	<i>T.J. Presley</i>	<i>Wendy Chamberlain</i>
<i>Rep. Josiah Patkotak</i>	<i>Melanie Bahnke</i>	<i>Fritz Westlake</i>	<i>Matt Mead</i>
<i>Molly</i>			

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Nelson requested to add Resolution 21-17 and 21-18 to Item N. Resolutions and also Josiah Patkotak, State House Representative, to Item G.



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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting minutes of March 23, 2021 as presented.

Member Sampson motioned to approve the March 23, 2021 Regular minutes as presented, Member Loon seconded; a roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Shelly Wade, Agnew Beck Consulting

Ms. Shelly Wade, provided an overview and update on the Northwest Arctic Borough Comprehensive Plan process.

2. Ramzi Fawaz, Ambler Metals Tony Giardini, Trilogy Metals

Mr. Ramzi Fawaz and Mr. Giardini gave an update on Ambler Metals/Trilogy Metals and summarized the objectives 2021 for the summer field season.

3. Wendy Chamberlain, Lobbyist update

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

4. Representative Josiah Patkotak, House of Representatives

Representative Patkotak gave a brief update on the House appropriations funding and the operations and the capital projects budget.

5. T.J. Presley, Alaska Redistricting Board

Mr. T.J. Presley and Board Member Ms. Melanie Bahnke, provided an overview of the process of redistricting and what it looks like.

A fifteen minute break was taken at 10:48 am.

The meeting reconvened from break at 11:00 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

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



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PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 20-04am02 - *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to amend the adopted line-item budget for Fiscal Year 2021.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-04am02 and recommended approval for enactment.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 20-04am02 for enactment, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Ordinance 20-06am01 - *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the FY21 Village Improvement Fund budget.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-06am01 and recommended approval for enactment.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 20-06am01 for enactment, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-04 and recommended approval for enactment.

Member Ballot motioned to approve Ordinance 21-04 for enactment, seconded by Member Cleveland. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-05 and recommended approval for enactment.

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Ordinance 21-05 for enactment, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Lincoln Carr reported that she attended the Planning Commission and Lands



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Committee meeting on April 16, 2021 and she commented that it was a very informative meeting and she thanked the Director of Planning and her staff and the Planning Commissioner's for the work they do.

Member Loon reported that she also attended the Planning Commission and Lands Committee meeting on April 16, 2021 and she thanked Ms. Shelly Wade for her work on the comprehensive plan and the meeting was very informative.

Member Sampson commented that he attended the Planning Commission and Lands Committee meeting and thought that it was a healthy discussion. He commented about the strategic plan that was conducted by the Inuich Food Security Committee and that they came out with a book called Food Sovereignty and Self Governance. He is hoping that the Planning Commission will take an active role for our communities in regards to this strategic plan for this food sovereignty program.

Member Armstrong reported that he held a Subsistence/Environmental Protection Committee meeting on April 23, 2021 and they discussed and supported the Special Action Request for WSA 21-01. He also attended the Planning Commission and Lands Committee meeting on April 16, 2021.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Nelson reported that her administration continues to have Staff and Director's meeting virtually. She worked on preparation for the Regular meeting and continue to provide ongoing updates to the Borough website in regards to borough events, meetings, and activities on the Borough's Facebook page. The NWAB office had to close on several work-days due to severe weather blizzard conditions in order to keep our employees safe.

Mayor Nelson reported that the Incident Command System team continues to meet on an as needed basis due to the limited funds available and that the NWAB Emergency Order 05 has been extended through April 30, 2021. Mayor Nelson summarized the recent changes from CDC that is being considered to amend EO-05 to include that fully vaccinated residents can travel within the United States and do not need COVID-19 testing, however, they must take precautions while traveling and to practice safety measures. The Unified Incident Command Team meets as needed and is at the call of the Incident Command Team.

Mayor Nelson reported that Maniilaq Health Center continues with vaccination of residents throughout NW Alaskan communities and added that current vaccination rates for 1st doses are at 47% and 2nd doses are at 41% as of April 6, 2021. Mayor Nelson also reported that Northwest Arctic Leadership Team (NWALT) meetings were held on March 16, 18 and 30th to discuss next steps of the NWALT and they changed out the rotation of



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co-chairs to Guy Adams, Northwest Inupiaq Housing Authority, and Linda Lee, NANA Corporation. She attended the Public Safety Commission meeting that was held on March 17-18, 2021 and the topics of discussion included the Strategic Planning Foundational Feedback, Maniilaq Association update by Ms. Jackie Hill and NWAB public safety needs. Mayor Nelson reported that she provided public testimony to the State Legislature Senate and Finance Committee on March 18, 2021 regarding school bond debt reimbursement, community assistance program and power cost equalization. Lastly, she continues to hold on-going Strategic planning meetings with Staff Directors to move our actions forward on goals and objectives set in 2020.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Nelson recommended a BAF Work session for Monday, May 24, 2021 at 1:00 pm and the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 9:00 am.

By unanimous consent of the Assembly the next meeting dates as recommended by the Mayor.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 21-09** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund application from the Native Village of Shungnak to fund a pickup truck and transit van purchase, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-09, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-09, seconded by Member Carr. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution 21-10** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund application from the City of Selawik to fund fuel spill cleanup, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-10, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-10, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.



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3. Resolution 21-11 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund application from the City of Kotzebue for the purchase of an ambulance, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-11, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

Member Loon motioned to approve Resolution 21-11, seconded by Member Barr. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously with Member Shroyer Beaver abstaining from action.

4. Resolution 21-12 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund application from the City of Deering to complete the purchase of heavy equipment, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-12, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-12, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Resolution 21-13 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving and adopting revised policies and procedures for the Village Improvement Commission, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-13, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-13, seconded by Member Nay. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Resolution 21-14 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly ratifying the Mayor's appointment of members to the Village Improvement Commission.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-14, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-14, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.



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7. Resolution 21-15 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Alaska for COVID-19 response efforts, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-15, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-15, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Resolution 21-16 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the FY22 Local Contribution to Education.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-16, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Resolution 21-16, seconded by Member Sampson. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Resolution 21-17 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly extending the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Emergency Proclamation for COVID-19, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-17, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-17, seconded by Member Barr. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Resolution 21-18 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly supporting Wildlife Special Action (WSA) 21-01.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-18, recommending approval. BAF Chair Shroyer Beaver reported that it was recommended do pass.

Member Loon motioned to approve Resolution 21-18, seconded by Member Sampson. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.



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AUDIENCE COMMENTS

No audience comments.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Armstrong expressed his condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. He wished the hunters success and to be safe.

Member Barr commented about the good discussions that were held within the last two days and she is hoping to increase the amount of spending on public safety. She thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for hard work.

Member Ballot expressed her condolences to those who have lost loved ones recently. She thanked the Mayor and staff and the VIF staff for their support for the funds for the oil spill cleanup. She commented that the water and sewer lines are slowly thawing with the warmer temperatures. She thanked Jessica and Claude for assisting with the snow machine race in Selawik and she encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Member Loon thanked everyone for a good meeting and she thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for their good work in preparation for this meeting. She encouraged everyone to be safe while out conducting subsistence activities.

Member Shroyer Beaver commented about the importance of working on our priorities and capital projects. It's good to come up with a game plan in regards to the PILT. She congratulated all the Kindergarten, 8th and senior graduates and that they did a great job completing it virtually. She thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff, School District and IRA's for doing a great job with the COVID process. She encouraged everyone to continue to follow the mandates.

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

Member Cleveland expressed his condolences to friends and family who have lost their loved ones. He thanked the presenters for the good information they brought to the meeting. He encouraged safety to the whalers.

Member Carr thanked those who call in regularly and we had a good discussion at the work session such as our priorities with the VIF fund. She also mentioned the Assembly retreat so that we can work on setting our priorities and she thanked all those that participated in the races that happened this spring. Member Carr also thanked those who presented and she also appreciated Ms. Wendy Chamberlain's and Representative Patkotak's update. She also thanked Mayor Nelson and the members who are part of the



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COVID taskforce as it has been very helpful. Lastly, she thanked the members for their commitment and she congratulated all the graduates and the parents of school children as it has been a tough year for all.

Member Nay thanked the Village Improvement Commission for the work they do and she encouraged communities to turn in their applications. She congratulated the graduates and to follow their dreams. She thanked Chair Hadley for his leadership on the assembly.

Member Sampson thanked Mayor Nelson for a good meeting and discussing pros and cons on issues is important. He commented that the COVID taskforce did a good job this year in regards to putting out the mandates. He congratulated the seniors for a job well done.

Youth Representative Tahayla Baker commented about the important topics and issues that were covered at this meeting. She congratulated all the HS graduates and there are so many opportunities to chase that is a click away on the internet.

Youth Representative Ticket thanked Mayor Nelson and staff for their help and to continue to be safe. He requested for prayers for his team as they will be participating in the State volleyball. He congratulated all the 2021 HS graduates.

Chair Hadley thanked the Youth Representatives for their comments as they are important. He congratulated the Buckland volleyball team and safe travels to the State tournament. He expressed his condolences to those who have lost their loved ones as we have to move forward and to take care of one another. He thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for the work they do for the borough and to continue to be safe.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson thanked the Assembly and staff for their support through the process of meetings. She reported that on Resolution 21-17 she neglected to mention the declaration date that will continue through July 31. She encouraged everyone to continue to practice safety measures by wearing masks and keeping six feet apart. She encouraged safety while out traveling and let someone know where you are going and returning. She congratulated the 2021 graduates and she thanked the presenters for calling in for providing updates and information.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Armstrong motioned, Member Loon seconded to adjourn. With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:56 P.M.