



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 – 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 Sampson provided invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Sampson mentioned quite a bit of storms lately, not over yet; people will be traveling. Sometimes nice when leave, although get caught; make sure others know where you plan to go and how long you plan to be out. In some instances, some people that travel in the storm; remember when we do that we risk other lives. Cautious.

Member Loon mentioned lots of snow in Kotzebue, sometimes blinded; watch for kids walking to school. Watch for pedestrians, have a good day.

Member Carr asked if Borough checks ice thickness here locally? If so, although Anchorage does the update on the website, people are asking. Doesn't seem as thick as before.

President Hadley hoped to get a COVID update to share.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Dickie Moto Sr.	Angie Sturm	Erin Stephens	Fritz Westlake Sr.
Shayne Schaeffer	Colt Ticket	Gem Belamour	Matt Mead
Hiram Walker	Stella Atoruk	Ingemar Mathiasson	

A quorum presents to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Hadley mentioned yesterday at the meeting Ordinance 22-04am01 was tabled, do we want today. Borough Treasurer mentioned still haven't heard back from Teck on FY23 payments. Member Carr requested to add resolution 23-11 and resolution 23-12. Member Magdanz clarified if table now or at the time going through the ordinances.

Member Carr motioned to approve as amended, Member Sampson seconded; passed by majority with Member Cleveland not participating.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2023, regular meeting minutes presented for approval.

Member Sampson motion to approve, seconded by Member Armstrong; motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE

None presented.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Budget, Audit and Finance Chair Carr provided a summary of the meeting held previously.

Borough Treasurer Sturm provided a report ending February 28, 2023, note they were discussed in detailed previous day.

Member Carr mentioned she forgot to mention that there were questions of when is the budget retreat? Have some big asks on agenda, need to look at finances and priorities.

Member Loon asked yesterday about the deed reimbursement, have you found anything; where did the funds go?

PUBLIC HEARING, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 22-04am01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving and adopting an amended line-item budget for fiscal year 2023.*

Member Loon motion to table Ordinance 22-04am01, seconded by Member Barr; motion passed unanimously.

Member Carr asked Treasurer Sturm when to expect the budget be presented, next meeting? Or before via email?

2. **Ordinance 23-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Title Two of the Borough Code to set the salary of the Mayor.*

Member Carr made a motion to amend to 3%, not the ten thousand; seconded by Member Loon. Motion failed with nine no votes, one yes and one not participating.

Member Sampson motion to enact Ordinance 23-01, Member Armstrong seconded; motion passed nine yes votes, one no vote and Member Cleveland not participating.

3. **Ordinance 23-02** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code for the Frank R. Ferguson Scholarship Program, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Moto mentioned Legal Mead made changes that were requested yesterday. Member Sampson asked if the scholarship program had been capped out? As a whole?

Member Armstrong motion to enact Ordinance 23-02, seconded by Member Barr; motion passed unanimously.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Sampson sits on Rural CAP Board, when initially started in 1970's they were heavily involved in subsistence issues; then over time they get State and Federal funding start getting issues. Rural CAP will hopefully work through the tribal entity. Dealing with rural Alaska on housing programs, although today's housing is expensive. Need to find a way to address, possibly smaller homes.

Member Armstrong stated AML has no reports, committee didn't attend winter conference.

President Hadley expressed the importance of housing in the villages, this past year State had talked about shortage of homes.

Member Carr mentioned they need to continue to lobby for housing, including teacher housing; also the other entities to join to find funding.

Member Loon thank Member Sampson's report, know head start is active in DC area; is there discussion of head start in our area? She know School District couldn't pay.

President Hadley mentioned he sits on AML Board and legislative committee. Also on AML Board is a gentleman from Tookook Bay, they speak on needs of rural communities. Hopefully to get additional support for the school districts.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Public Safety Director Chris Hatch introduced himself and gave background, welcome back to Northwest Arctic Borough. Mr. Hatch summarized his written report.

Member Armstrong asked if SPOT trackers are ready to check out? Activated? Member Sampson thank you for report and willingness to return; certainly critical part to address at village level make sure you have an interpreter. To Legal Mead, what can we do to minor offences had to let people go; deal with minor offences, alcohol issue which can resolve through a program to recoup our trained VPSO. What can we do to help?

Member Magdanz welcome experienced and strong leadership in the department, great to see. Keeping an eye on a few things, positive route to have local solutions. Excited and support efforts for create functioning justice systems and correction systems in all our communities. Have six funded positions although not enough to cover the villages, continue to lobby at Juneau. Strategic planning, desire to see continuity and welcome.

Member Loon welcome Hatch, thank you for addressing suicide program, good job. President Hadley mentioned at last AFN conference there was a lady with Federal side, possibly at the magnet school to earn credits that are interested in law enforcement. Hopefully can make starting rate at a higher pay to make attractive.

Member Carr welcomed back Director Hatch, thank you Mayor and Chris for continuing hiring VPSO's; hard work through Mayor and Assembly, lobbying not only in Juneau but in

DC also. Education in high school, possibly in middle school that these domestic or dui charges may shatter those possibilities.

Community & Economic Development report by Energy Coordinator,

Public Services Report given by Mr. Westlake, currently Mr. Dominic Ivanoff is acting public services director. The community assistance have been received from Buckland, Kivalina and Kobuk; some villages have submitted part of the paperwork.

Member Carr asked what is Dominic's new position? Hired within?

Planning Administrator Ms. Gem Belamour summarized the Planning report ending in February.

Member Magdanz asked if Valhalla Metals, is that part of Ambler Metals or different company?

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

April 24-25, 2023 for next meeting date.

Break observed at 10:24 A.M. Reconvened at 10:39 A.M.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None presented.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 23-10** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract for a Multi-Community Solar Battery Project with Renewable Energy Systems of Alaska, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Moto summarized Resolution 23-10.

Member Armstrong motion to approve Resolution 23-10, seconded by Member Swan; motion passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution 23-11** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract with the City of Kiana to construct ice roads and for related purposes.*

Mayor Moto summarized Resolution 23-11, recommend do pass. Member Carr asked if Borough will be involved in ice testing. We are not responsible for ice testing. Member Sampson asked for comparison of expenses in the past verses the amount of contract. What we spent last year and this amount.

Member Loon echo comments from previous day, this contract can be canceled if the ice isn't thick enough, right? Member Magdanz asked Mayor which communities would relate to

this contract. Member Carr verified which villages.

Member Magdanz motion to approve Resolution 23-11, seconded by Member Armstrong; motion passed unanimously.

3. **Resolution 23-12** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving purchase of 10 ATV's for fire fighting use and for related purposes.*

Public Services Director Hatch summarized Resolution 23-12.

Member Armstrong motion to approve Resolution 23-12, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously.

Member Armstrong excused at 10:55 A.M.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

No audience comments.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Barr mentioned good meeting, enjoyed presentations. Presentation from School District is helpful in our discussions for future budget decisions. Hopefully can schedule the budget retreat soon. Encourage everyone to stay safe, experience so many storms. Extend condolences to those that lost loved ones. May you have a safe Spring.

Member Loon thank you for staff reports, welcome back Chris Hatch and to Assembly for participation. Look forward to hearing from the economist about our future, since PILT will expire. We've been blessed to ensure villages have their equipment. Safe travels.

Member Swan mentioned good meeting, thank you for work. Update Teck is asking for information on ANTHC Kivalina water delivery system; discussions of delivery from the old site.

Member Sampson in Inupiaq; first, thank Mayor and staff for work done at Borough. Welcome back Chris, good intentions. Too often we depend on outside to come and help on issues when they don't have the knowledge at our regional level. Wellness issue, we need to set up a wellness meetings at village level; we wait until something drastically happen. Only the communities them selves can fix some of the problems. Thank you.

Member Magdanz thank you for good meeting, thank you for those that are digging us out to snow removal crews. Excited to see solar projects moving forward. See agenda for upcoming joint meeting with North Slope, look forward to that. Lot of power when together.

Member Carr thank Mayor and administration for moving forward with serious needs for years. After hearing from school district yesterday, we see where state has failed; we need to help them with lobbying. Yet we need to have budget retreat, look at reality; set our priorities. Like Member Sampson said, community level; possibly limit donations to each village for small gatherings. Thank administration for all work done, ladies for breakfast; miss Sandy whom would bring goodies. Thank you, City of Kotzebue, for activities that have been happening. Need budget retreat and set priorities, look forward to having a plan and actually see a forecast. Thankful for Kotzebue Police Department, support your police, support your VPSO's. Thank you.

Member Ballot mentioned good meeting, good information. Happy for vehicles for the fire department in the communities, help save time and possibly save lives. Good reports from staff. School presentation was alarming and informative. Look forward to joint meeting next week. Thankful for you all in your positions, thankful for support that have been shown. Every community has those that are willing to step up. Happy that her son and dad are getting to Kotzebue this evening, home tomorrow. Thankful for prayers and support everybody given to him, happy to go home to family. Thank you.

Member Cleveland good meeting, appreciate report from school district. Togetherness with our communities, although sometimes hard for local politics but at the end we come out together. Good meeting.

Vice President Shroyer hope to be at next meeting, recovering from surgeries; happy to be back home. Thank Mayor and staff, welcome back Chris. Condolences that lost loved ones, recognize Tom Bolen whom passed, he worked at Borough and Maniilaq. Keep Helen in your prayers.

President Hadley sends condolences to those that lost loved ones, sometimes people want to give up. Important to support one another, encourage others to keep going. Welcome back to Chris, thank you Mayor for continue to work on warm storages for the villages. Hard to see houses burn down, all their belongings are lost. Have a safe Spring.

Youth Representative Ticket thank everyone for reports. Appreciate what Chris is doing to make everyone feel safe in the villages. Prayers for safe travels.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Moto thank Assembly and staff, been meeting lot of challenges moving forward. He just got an email on Wellness Programs, request for Borough to take the lead; reached out to staff. Look forward to next meeting and updates on buildings.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Carr motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Loon at 11:21 A.M.

Stella Atoub
4/25/2023