

**MINUTES
NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
November 14, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Nome Common Council was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Honorable Mayor Denise Michels in the City Council Chambers of Nome City Hall located at 102 Division St.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Stan Andersen, Mary Bourdon, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson.

Members Absent: Jerald Brown, Randy Pomeranz.

Also Present: City Manager Randy Romenesko; Deputy Clerk Terrie Perkins.

In the audience: Mark Sackett; Josie Stiles, NVCB; Tim Burgess, US Attorney General-AK District; Tim Shield, Crowley Marine Services; Mark Johnson; Mitch Erickson, Nome Chamber of Commerce; Craig Moates, Police Chief; Ted Meyer, Nome Nugget Newspaper; Sherry Yonkers; Pat Krier; Paul Korchin, KNOM.

INVOCATION

Paul Korchin gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. 10/24/05 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. 11/3/05 Special Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Bourdon approving the 10/24/05 regular meeting and the 11/3/05 Special meeting minutes as presented.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Bourdon, Knodel, Larson, Andersen

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Michels read through the communications by title.

- A. Letter from NSEDC approving funding for improvements to the Nome Harbor, including dredging and a barge ramp.
- B. Letter from Demick A. Thomas, Community Mitigation Analyst, ISO, regarding Public Fire Protection Community Rating.
- C. Letter from Pilgrim Springs, Ltd., regarding proposal for a Nome Sponsored Hot Springs and Recreational Bath House at Pilgrim Hot Springs.
- D. Letter from Bering Sea Lions Club soliciting corporate sponsorship and donations for the annual Nome-Golovin-Nome Snowmachine Race.

- E. Letter to NSEDC thanking them for funded improvements to the Nome Harbor and acknowledging NSEDC request for long term lease of land at Small Boat Harbor.
- F. Nome Public Schools, October General Fund Revenues and Expenses/Business Office Activities.
- G. Letter to Mayor Denise Michels from Gloria Ann Kamun, President, Nome School Board, regarding Nome Public Schools Business Manager's contract.

No comments heard.

CITIZENS GRIEVANCES AND REQUESTS

Mitch Erickson-Executive Director of Nome Chamber of Commerce

Thank you we know that the work of the 21st work session did bring some fruit. We would like to thank you for the reduction in sales tax on utilities and we think this is a good start and would like to see it continue. He adds that now that the City is getting in revenue figures from sales tax received the Council should be able to estimate what the revenues will be over the next year and he personally would like to see that amount given back to the community in some type of tax relief. We are more than willing to work with you at any given point in this process.

Mayor Michels adds that the Council wants to make sure they make an informed decision once we have the numbers in front of us.

Mark Sackett-Anchor Liquor and Que` Ondas

He states that he supports what Mitch Erickson has expressed and he suggests a tax holiday in the winter months from November to May and then collecting taxes during the summer months when there are more people coming to Nome to spend their money and more revenue is made. This will make it easier on everyone during the winter months in not paying this sales tax and then come summer we pay the sales tax. This will help all the businesses in the winter time to get through the winter.

Mayor Michels takes a moment to introduce Mr. Tim Burgess who is sitting in the audience. Mr. Burgess is the U.S. Attorney for the Alaska District and is here to travel with Chief of Police Moates and Kawerak to area villages.

SPECIAL ORDERS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

O-05-10-02 An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase and Lease of Real Property by the City of Nome from Alaska Gold Company
~Second Reading, Public Hearing and Final Passage

Hearing no objection from the Council Mayor Michels asked the Deputy Clerk to place O-05-10-02 into its second reading, public hearing and final passage.

The Deputy Clerk read O-05-10-02 for the second time.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:36 p.m.

Public Comments:
None

Mayor Michels reconvened the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Andersen to approve O-05-10-02.

Discussion:

C. Andersen asks the City Manager if there were any problems with the FAA - being we are purchasing more land in their flight path. Do they have anything in their future plans regarding moving the airport which might affect this land?

City Manager Romensko responds that he doesn't think that for the City's intended uses that there would be a negative impact. He doesn't believe there are any plans to move the airport. He has not received any letters of objection.

C. Andersen asks if the FAA was informed of this land sale and City Manager Romenesko affirms that they were informed.

C. Andersen asks if this property goes across the road.

City Manager Romenesko responds that it goes on the North side of Center Creek or Middle Creek and abuts the existing cemetery.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Larson, Andersen, Bourdon, Knodel,
Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

R-05-11-02 A Resolution Adopting An Employee Record Keeping Policy

Hearing no objection from the Council Mayor Michels asked the Deputy Clerk to read R-05-11-02.

The Deputy Clerk read R-05-11-02.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to approve R-05-11-02.

Discussion:

C. Knodel states that she is glad to see this policy and C. Andersen wonders what was being used before this.

City Manager Romenesko responds that there was a policy adopted by the Council back in 1998 but it was very generic and didn't provide necessary guidance needed to keep personnel files in accordance with state and federal regulations.

C. Andersen wonders if there has been a problem in the past or has anyone gotten in to them.

City Manager Romenesko responds that there hasn't been a problem per say, they are kept under lock and key in the Manager's office, but we've had some problems with information being mixed together, so if a supervisor wanted to see an employee file we would have to spend the time to separate it out. He adds that it is to our benefit to provide clear guidance to all the staff on how we are going to handle this.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Andersen, Bourdon, Knodel, Larson
Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

R-05-11-03 A Resolution of the City of Nome, Alaska, Supporting Improvements to Nome Airport Runway
10/28

Hearing no objection from the Council, Mayor Michels asked the Deputy Clerk to read R-05-11-03.

The Deputy Clerk read R-05-11-03.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Larson to approve R-05-11-03.

Discussion:

C. Knodel wonders if they need this for a particular reason.

City Manager Romenesko responds that the DOT is requesting this as part of their process for federal funding for airports.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Andersen, Bourdon, Knodel, Larson

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

O-05-11-01 An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Nome, Alaska to Issue General Obligation School Bonds in the Principal Amount of not to Exceed \$1,260,000 to Provide Funds for School and Related Capital Improvements in the City and to Pay Costs of Issuing the Bonds, Fixing Certain Details of Such Bonds, Authorizing Their Sale, and Providing for Related Matters.

Hearing no objection from the Council Mayor Michels asked the Deputy Clerk to read O-05-11-01 for the first time.

The Deputy Clerk read O-05-11-01.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to place O-05-11-01 into second reading, public hearing and final passage.

Discussion:

None

At the roll call:

Ayes: Bourdon, Knodel, Larson, Andersen.

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

2005 NSEDC Community Benefit Share
~Public Hearing to discuss distribution of \$75,000

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:43 p.m.

Mayor Michels explains that the City is required to hold a public hearing on how the \$75,000 should be used. She asks the City Manager to explain what has been done in the past.

City Manager Romenesko explains that this funding has been received since 1999. Last year \$50,000 was received and for a couple years prior to that and the money has been allocated towards operation and maintenance of the swimming pool.

Public Comments:

None

Discussion by Staff/Council:

Mayor Michels asks if anyone would object to using some of the money towards the cost of operating the harbor. She adds the reason for this is the City provides water and electricity at no cost in the Small Boat Harbor.

City Manager Romenesko adds that yes the Harbor provides potable water, used oil disposal and trash pickup.

Mayor Michels explains that this year we are receiving \$25,000 more than last year, \$50,000 could go to the pool and \$25,000 could go to the Small Boat Harbor.

C. Andersen wonders if the City is going to continue to give these services for free or is the City going to start charging for water and access to those kinds of things...do we get it back in fees?

City Manager Romenesko responds that we do get some of it back in fees through dockage. We have a metered two inch line that provides water to larger vessels and a small one inch line that is used by the individuals of fishing boats that are tied off to the floating dock. He adds we do provide those services; they are covered by our fees but quite frankly our fees don't off-set the costs to provide those services.

C. Bourdon thinks using the money for these purposes is a good idea.

C. Larson wonders if there are other pool improvements that are continuing to be made. He remembers that last year the money went specifically towards some project that was going on at the pool.

City Manager Romenesko explains that last year we did do a capital project there – we replaced the filters and hot water heater for about \$150,000 in round numbers.

C. Larson asks is there a project with sheet pile replacement that the City is going to be furnishing some materials for?

City Manager Romenesko responds that the City is providing for fenders and bollards on the project in the amount of approximately \$135,000, which is coming out of the Port fund which is run as an enterprise.

C. Larson adds that if they (NSEDG) want something that is related to fisheries - this project would certainly be related to that.

City Manager Romenesko responds yes it will provide moorage space.

C. Larson suggests that the entire amount of money be put to the Port improvement projects rather than splitting between the Port and swimming pool.

C. Knodel adds that she wants to make sure that there is sufficient money to operate the pool.

City Manager Romenesko explains that approximately \$130,000 has been budgeted to operate the pool. He doesn't have the budget with him and he doesn't recall if the City assumed we would be getting this money when figuring this amount for the Pool budget.

C. Knodel states that using the money for the Port improvements is fine and C. Bourdon agrees.

The consensus is to use the Community Benefit Share monies for Port improvement projects.

Mayor Michels reconvened the regular meeting at 7:50 p.m.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

No report.

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

No report – Mr. Handeland out of town.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Randy Romenesko referred the Council to his written report and mentioned the following:

- NSEDC has supported the City's request for \$555,100 to fund improvements at the Port
 - barge ramp completed and dredging to support the barge ramp
 - amendment being prepared to lease additional property from NSEDC
 - will be presented to Council for approval after 30 day public notice process
- Would like to schedule meeting with Council Finance Work Group consisting of C. Andersen and C. Knodel to go over updated City investment information and to look at participating in the Alaska Municipal League's insurance pool
 - in order to participate an ordinance must be passed by the Council
- Work session set with the Nome Planning Commission November 30, 2005, 6:00 PM with Acting City Engineer Jim Vogel to discuss:
 - 1) Moon Light Springs Ordinance and the development of the permitting process and Best Managements and Practices that will regulate the development permits for the MLS area
 - will invite all those folks that previously participated in work sessions and Council meetings regarding the development of this ordinance
 - 2) will also begin work on the renewal of our Corps of Engineers General Permit
 - expires in August of 2006
 - construction projects need to be started ie. Bypass Road, snow storage and disposal site
 - these projects all need Corps Wetland permits so would like to start process early
 - 3) congratulations to Jimmy West Jr. who received the EMS Provider of the Year Award at the Alaska EMS Symposium
 - given to an individual who is medically trained and who performs meritorious service above and beyond the applications of the job
 - 4) congratulations to Rena Booshu and Jim West Jr. for their 5th place finish in the 2005 Alaska EMS Symposium Skills Competition
 - 5) first reading of the ordinance authorizing the actual sale of bonds that were approved by the voters
 - application packet has been completed and submitted to the Bond Bank
 - will be considered at board meeting on December 14, 2005
 - also submitted to Wells Fargo to obtain quote for sale of these bonds
 - finalized amendments to the grant agreements that we have with Dept. of Education
 - 6) staff reports have been provided by:
 - 1) Library
 - 2) Police Department - Chief Moates is here and will answer any questions
 - 3) Port of Nome provided an October report
 - 4) Visitors and Convention Bureau provided a report and Josie Stiles is here if you have any questions

COUNCILMAN COMMENTS

Councilman Larson wonders if the City has heard from the Bond Bank on them joining the NOAA appeal.

City Manager Romenesko responds that it is grinding away through the Attorney General's office and he hasn't heard anything further.

Councilman Larson wonders what the Council has done in the past in terms of a contribution to the Nome-Golovin-Nome Snowmachine Race.

City Manager Romenesko responds last year the City contributed \$1,000.00.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Andersen to make a contribution to the Nome-Golovin-Nome Snowmachine Race in the amount of \$1,000.00.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Larson, Andersen, Bourdon, Knodel.

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

Councilman Andersen had no comments.

Councilman Bourdon stated that she went to the "newly elected officials" training at the Alaska Municipal League Conference and she felt it was very informative and she is glad that she attended.

Councilman Knodel states that Norton Sound Health Corporation is meeting this week in the Pioneer Hall from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. At the session today the Board asked that she express thanks to Chief Moates and Mr. Tim Burgess for coming up to the region and working today at the high school and with the VPSO's and also for traveling to the villages.

The Board would also like me to pass along a big "Thank You" to Chief Moates for his work with the Wellness Forum and the nightly patrols. Berda Wilson had lots of good things to say about Chief Moates and his cooperation in working with the community and we do appreciate it.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

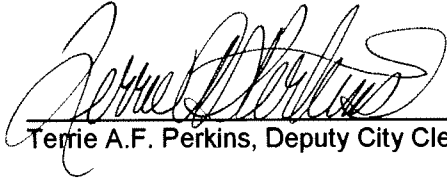
Mayor Michels reports that she was at the Alaska Municipal League Conference and priorities passed were revenue sharing, PERS/TERS and having the State look at the fuel issue to see what they have planned. She adds that she will be on travel status for the next meeting and would like Councilman Andersen to preside at that meeting. She states that she will have a full written report at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

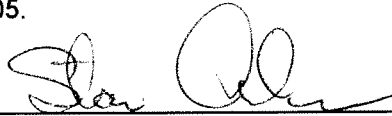
A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to adjourn.

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

SIGNED AND DATED THE 28th day of November, 2005.



Terrie A.F. Perkins, Deputy City Clerk



Stan Andersen, Presiding Councilman