

**MINUTES  
NOME COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 13, 2006**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Common Council was called to order at 12:00 Noon by Mayor Denise Michels in the City Council Chambers of Nome City Hall located at 102 Division St.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Stan Andersen, Jerald Brown, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, Randy Pomeranz.

Members Absent: Mary Bourdon

Also Present: City Manager Randy Romenesko; City Clerk Leslee Wessel; Chief of Police Craig Moates; Utility Manager John Handeland; Recreation Center Director Charles Leeper.

In the audience: Paul Korchin, KNOM; Laurie McNicholas, Nome Nugget; Jana Varrati, Lahka Peacock, Cari Miller, Michael Miller, Melissa Owens, Laban Iyatunguk, Jr., Tim Jauhola, Tesoro Iron Dog.

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Paul Korchin.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 9, 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Larson to approve the January 9, 2006 regular meeting minutes.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Brown, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Michels read the communications by title.

**CITIZENS GRIEVANCES AND REQUESTS**

Derrick Leedy stated he made a presentation at the last school board meeting about the problems they have in the tunnel with radon gas. The testing was done in November of 2003 and the results came back January of 2004. The school had the results around March of 2004. He doesn't know exactly when the school board was notified but from his recollection it was quite a bit later. He doesn't think this Council knew about it for a while either. He is concerned about this delay. The radon gas is there because there are radioactive rocks and minerals underneath the tunnel. They seep through the concrete tunnel which is about 200 feet long and connects the Science Academy and the high school. They have this pocket of radio active gas which is 15 times higher than EPA says it can be. He stated the reason it is a concern is it is there and the kids were using it for years. The City asked USKH to come up with a proposal. The proposal was to retest it after the school tested it. They would do real time testing which would take five days. They would do pressure testing to find out where the air in the tunnel is going. They did preliminary work and found it wasn't going into cafeteria. They were willing to do those things and call it

Phase I which would take about a week. USKH contacted Herrera Engineering or Ecological Services in Spokane, Washington and they were ready to have them come up. The budget for this was only \$25,000. It has been two years and nothing has happened.

City Manager Romenesko stated the question is who wants to pay for it and where does the money come from.

C. Brown asked if they are using the tunnel. City Manager Romenesko stated the students do not use the tunnel. It is used only for maintenance.

C. Knodel stated the school district should check it out and if there is a problem they should come back to the Council to discuss it. If there is a problem, the buildings are the cities and they can do something about it.

Dr. Leedy stated after his presentation there was an opportunity for the school to put it on the agenda and it was not done. He questioned why they would not talk about it at a school board meeting. City Manager Romenesko stated he would call the superintendent and express his concerns.

C. Andersen asked if there are groups of people concerned about this. Dr. Leedy said the EPA is concerned. USKH is concerned. C. Andersen asked if they aren't satisfied that it has been closed down. City Manager stated he has not heard from the EPA. C. Andersen stated he has not seen anything in writing from them that they recommend that something be done. The City asked how much it would cost and that is as far as it has gone.

C. Pomeranz asked if the Council has seen the break down on the \$25,000. City Manager Romenesko stated they received that in November of 2004. The thought back then was the same as now, it is a maintenance issue until it turns into a capital issue.

Mayor Michels said correspondence will go to the school to ask them what their plan is.

Dr. Leedy thanked the Council. He stated he is concerned because his daughter goes to school there. Mayor Michels stated the kids don't use the tunnel. Dr. Leedy stated his concern is that the gas might be seeping into the charter school and that has not been tested.

Tim Jauhola, with the Tesoro Iron Dog, stated the event started yesterday. He is here to introduce himself and express appreciation for what Nome does for them. They have been working with Lahka Peacock locally to expand the activities in Nome. He thanked the City of Nome for having them and the people here who have supported them. They are non profit organization and they do everything on a volunteer basis. The event got started well in Big Lake. The racers should be here sometime tomorrow late afternoon. He asked them to let Mr. Peacock know if there is anything they are doing that needs to be changed.

### **PLANNING AND ZONING**

- A. October 11, 2005 Rescheduled Regular Meeting
- B. November 8, 2005 Rescheduled Regular Meeting
- C. December 6, 2005 Regular Meeting

### **SPECIAL ORDERS**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. R-06-01-02 A Resolution Approving a Contract with Mr. Eldon Mulder dba The Mulder Company for Federal Lobbying Services for the 2006 calendar year.

Hearing no objection from the Council the Mayor asked the Clerk to read R-06-01-02.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to adopt R-06-01-02.

City Manager Romenesko stated he provided a report to the Council from the latest trip to Washington.

C. Andersen stated he noticed in the report a bill from Don Young. He asked if that is looking good. City Manager Romenesko stated it looked good in December, but after their most recent trip it doesn't look so good.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown.

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. O-06-02-01 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2006 General Fund Municipal Budget.

B. O-06-02-02 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2006 Capital Projects Fund Budget.

C. O-06-02-03 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2006 Special Revenue Fund Budget.

D. O-06-02-04 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2006 Port of Nome Fund Budget.

E. O-06-02-05 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2006 Construction Capital Projects Fund Budget.

Hearing no objection from the Council the Mayor asked the Clerk to read the following ordinances for their first reading: O-06-02-01, O-06-02-02, O-06-02-03, O-06-02-04 and O-06-02-05.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Pomeranz to place these ordinances into second reading, public hearing and final passage.

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

City Manager Romenesko asked the Council if they would like to schedule a work session to go over this or cover the changes at the next meeting.

C. Andersen stated he would like a report on the amended budget. City Manager Romenesko stated he would provide a memo as an attachment to the budget for the next meeting covering that information.

F. R-06-02-01 A Resolution Approving a Support Agreement with the U.S. Corps of Engineers for the Cape Nome Jetty and Dock Assessment Project.

Hearing no objection from the Council the Mayor asked the Clerk to read R-06-02-01.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to adopt R-06-02-01.

C. Andersen asked if the \$16,000 is a realistic cost. City Manager Romenesko stated they will get a quick review of the site, a look at asbuilts, some aerial photography and make some guesstimates of what kind of quantity got destroyed. It will give an idea of the condition of it and where they think they need to go to get it built to withstand a fifty year storm.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown, Knodel.

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

G. R-06-02-02 A Resolution Authorizing Filing of a Lawsuit Against: B&R Communications; The Country Store, LLC; and, their Respective Partners and Members Including Ralph Blakeslee, Terrence Jennes, Randal Millsaps, Ben Simpson, and John Weaver, for Failure to Comply with City Sales and Property Tax Ordinances and to Pay Other Sums Due to the City of Nome.

Hearing no objection from the Council the Mayor asked the Clerk to read R-06-02-02.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to adopt R-06-02-02.

C. Andersen asked the policy on collecting City sales tax. City Clerk Wessel stated the City Code states after they are delinquent a certain period of time they can go ahead and estimate sales tax. C. Andersen asked how far these sales taxes go back. City Clerk Wessel stated these were from April to December 2005. City Clerk Wessel stated they send out several letters of their delinquency and try to collect. C. Andersen suggested after three months without getting their attention, they might start the collection process. City Manager Romenesko pointed out that the Clerk came on board April 2005 so there is a little lapse there. City Clerk Wessel stated they can look at that and do better at it. C. Andersen suggested they have a procedure in writing so that whoever is sitting in that seat will know that after three months if they are making no attempt they should start something. C. Andersen stated he would also like to see a policy on the foreclosure process.

C. Brown asked if there is a cost associated with filing a lawsuit. Would it be appropriate to send letters and use other means to collect than to go directly to lawsuit? C. Andersen stated he is asking for a written policy that can be followed. C. Brown stated he doesn't want to see them go out and spend \$10,000 to file a lawsuit on everyone that is three months late because some of them will pay up. C. Andersen stated if they are not paying their sales tax, they are probably not paying their utility bill either. When they add those together they may be talking about quite a bit of money and there have been several who have done this in the past.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown, Knodel, Larson.

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

H. Proposal to Update Nome Recreation Center Fee Schedule.

Chip Leeper, Recreation Center Director, stated he has come back with the proposal that the Council had asked him to prepare. He stated he provided information in the packet to the Council. Most of the tables were labeled at the top, but it appears the labels were cut off in the copying process. On page 171 is the history of the NRC fee structure that he was able to uncover. Page 172 is a breakdown of their daily and yearly operating expenses. Page 173 is a list of other similar sites around the state, what their existing fees are. Page 174 is their existing rates for entry admission and for rental. The pool fees are found on page 175. On 176 and 177 are the proposed fee changes for the pool and rec center.

C. Andersen asked for the total revenue increase between the old and new. Director Leeper stated he did not figure that out, but it is approximately a 20% increase. C. Andersen clarified he could take the annual budget and increase that by 20%. Director Leeper stated he would be comfortable with that.

C. Brown stated that assumes the user ship does not decline as the price goes up. This is typically the case whenever there is an increase. Director Leeper stated the people who may be discouraged from using it because of increase in fees would be minimal. They put out a very solid product. If they compare the rates to what other clubs are charging in areas that are cheaper to operate and maintain, he thinks their proposals aren't too unrealistic.

C. Larson stated he would like to see a projection on what it will do to revenues and how much it may reduce the subsidy that the City is providing. Director Leeper stated he should be able to get ball park figures. Sometimes it is a little tough. He can go by his daily attendance figures, but that doesn't necessarily reflect whether they paid a one time usage fee, a punch card or an annual fee which can tend to skew things. Their annual users or those who purchase a punch card are fairly dedicated users so sometimes their numbers are a little disproportionate to people who pay an admission fee. Very few people actually pay a regular admission fee. The more dedicated users generally use the punch card or membership route.

C. Andersen stated he would like to see the 10% to 20% as it might cover some of the pay raise they just gave.

C. Brown asked if he is setting up a deal for Sitnasauk employees and if he is aggressively promoting that kind of thing throughout the community. Director Leeper stated he is. In fact, within the last couple of weeks alone, they signed up Sitnasauk for 12 cards. They are not really getting a special deal looking at signing up. They are essentially getting the same deal as NSHC which is to buy the thirty visit punch cards in block then supply them with a list of eligible employees who can use it. In the recent days he has signed up Sitnasauk, Alaska Housing Finance Corp., and the Community Center. Kawerak, Norton Sound, Alaska Gold and KNOM are already on board. They are fairly aggressive in searching out new memberships. It has been readily documented that offering a health club membership has shown a drastic reduction in sick leave and onsite injuries.

C. Knodel stated it looks good to her.

Mayor Michels asked if action is needed on this item.

Director Leeper stated in this proposal he is also coming up with a uniform definition of the user groups. They want to make a uniform definition of what a senior is, what an adult is, what a child is and what a youth is. If there is any up roar it would be with the senior users. As it is now anyone over the age of 60 gets in free. An earlier memo provided the justification for this was that a lot of the grandparents were upset because they had to pay to bring their grandchildren in. It has been his experience for the last four years that this very rarely if ever happens. A lot of the seniors using the facility are using the showers and saunas which use staff time and resources. He would like to see them adopt a rate similar to the pool.

City Manager Romenesko stated if the proposed rates are not objectionable to the council they would like to see a motion of support.

C. Larson stated he would like to see the figures as to how much it will cut into the subsidy. C. Andersen would like to advertise this more and get the seniors and others here to comment before they take action instead of after.

It was stated this item would be scheduled on the next agenda.

I. Request for Waiver of City Use Fees for the Mini-Convention Center for the Nome Junior Iditarod Musher's Fundraiser, held January 27, 2006.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve this request for waiver of use fees.

C. Knodel stated she will not vote for this. They have had requests before from people who ran the Iditarod for funding or for use of the Mini Convention Center and they didn't grant it. She thinks the City shouldn't be financing someone's hobby or athletic program. If it involved more than four people in the community she might be inclined. She heard they did very well at the event and is glad they did.

C. Andersen stated he will vote for each one that comes down the pike until they set up a system for when to do this or not. How do they pick this one and not another one? All the buildings lose money. So either they start making them pay or reduce the rates or something.

C. Brown asked if there is a policy. City Manager Romenesko stated a year or two ago he drafted the conditions listed on the form. This is not a new discussion and he drafted those as a first cut effort to try to determine what kind of test could be applied to decide whether or not the Council would wish to approve the waiver or not. The Chamber of Commerce has a test and if someone wants money from them they need to meet the criteria of the test. Other organizations do the same thing. This never went through any real discussion with the Council on these criteria.

C. Andersen stated they as a Council need to sit down and decide what they are going to do.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Andersen, Pomeranz

Nays: Brown, Knodel, Larson

The motion FAILED.

J. Request for Waiver of City Use Fees for the Mini-Convention Center for the Iron Dog Halfway Banquet, February 15, 2006.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve the request for fee waiver.

C. Larson clarified they are not charging an entry fee. Lahka Peacock stated there is no entry fee and no fundraising being done and there will be free food, free slide show and entertainment. C. Andersen stated they are still responsible for cleaning up. Mr. Peacock agreed that they are. C. Knodel asked if the City is doing anything for Iron Dog. City Manager Romenesko stated they have use of the Fire Hall for the meeting area where they stage their headquarters and they also use the Public Works Garage to corral their snow machines in for a day or two.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Brown, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen

Nays: Knodel

The motion CARRIED.

K. Request for Waiver of City Use Fees for the Mini-Convention Center for the Annual Miners and Musher's Ball, March 11, 2006.

Cari Miller asked for reconsideration for the City's waiver for the Team Nome Junior Mushers. Mayor Michels explained she has a motion pending and discussion on that item will have to wait.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to approve the waiver request.

Jana Varrati stated she has provided a letter amending their request. They usually go in and decorate the Friday afternoon before their event so they are requesting an extension of this waiver from 24 hours to 30 hours. As far as they know there has been no request for someone to use the Mini on Friday afternoon. They do fall under all of the guidelines that have been written on the fee waiver form. The Council has granted their request for the six years they have been doing this. The Business and Professional Women are expanding their scholarship efforts as listed in the third paragraph. This is a unique scholarship effort that will target women in the Bering Straits Region who are probably able to get tuition and book grants and scholarships, but don't have the wherewithal to fund child care or food or an internet connection. This is a unique target group they are working with. The national Business and Professional Women has a very similar scholarship so by targeting this group they can tie them in with national scholarships.

C. Andersen asked if they have had issues cleaning up after any of these groups. City Clerk Wessel stated they keep the deposit until they have determined how they left the facility. If they don't clean up, they keep the deposit. Since she has been here they have not had to keep the deposit.

Ms. Varrati stated they hire someone to clean up after them.

C. Larson asked what the charge is to get into the dance. Ms. Varrati stated \$35.00 per person and all proceeds from the ball, hat making and dress sales go to scholarships.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Pomeranz, Andersen

Nays: Larson, Brown

The motion FAILED.

**L. Liquor License Renewals**

Polar Bar to Krier, Inc., dba Polar Bar

Polar Liquor to Krier, Inc., dba Polar Liquor Store

The Council had no objections to the renewal of these Liquor Licenses.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

**UTILITY MANAGER REPORT**

Utility Manager John Handeland stated the Mayor's Report and the City Manager's Report will contain information regarding their trip to Washington, D.C. and Juneau. They had some success on their power plant funding. Some hurdles they are still dealing with, but Senator Stevens has agreed to assist them to try to resolve the problems.

With regard to the water and sewer funding they have submitted to the USDA Rural Utility Service in Palmer an application for \$3,000,000 in funding for a program for this year. They are still working through a couple of the intricacies on that, but they do have a priority date established for their application and they will bring to the next meeting a resolution for the authorization of this application.

C. Knodel asked where their budget is. Utility Manager Handeland stated they are still working on it and hope to bring it to their next meeting.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Romenesko stated he has provided a written report to them. He mentioned the following:

- They have been active with some of their school efforts. They sold their bonds for school construction for between 4 and 4.35%. The Junior High Reorganization Project is currently out to bid and they have a walk through on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Bids are due February 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 p.m. He noted that Ms. Evelyn Rousso will be leaving USKH and going to a three person firm in Juneau and she will transfer her architectural responsibilities to one of the architects in the Anchorage office.
- The Planning Commission will meet on March 7 to look at the land use code they have been working on. The focus of their meeting is non conforming uses which is any lot, structure, use or occupancy that legally existed before the effective date of the code adoption but does not meet the requirements of the code. What that means is if an area of Town is designated residential and they have a mechanics shop or gas station shop there, they would be able to retain those services with grandfather rights, but if for some reason they went out of business for a certain period of time or their building burned down they would not be allowed to go back into that area. The Planning Commission is wrestling with the various definitions of non conforming and how extensive it is or isn't and it is a major component of the land use code. He is trying to entice public discussion on that potentially contentious issue.
- For the most part they have concluded the land acquisition with Alaska Gold. There is one problem where the public safety site they identified has a competing encumbrance in the form of a license that the State of Alaska has for the airport. They are in conversations with various DOT people at this time to work through this issue. Alaska Gold has no objection to them working through this issue. There is a ninety day closing clause from the time they sign the land sale agreement, but this one they are willing to let ride a little longer.
- He solicited in the Anchorage paper yesterday for Architect Engineering services for the Public Safety Building design. Proposals are due on March 10 and at the next meeting he will ask the council to seat a few persons on the selection committee to review the proposals, short list the firms and do oral interviews to bring someone on staff.
- On Wednesday the Council will meet with Col. Gallagher and some of his staff regarding the Port Improvements Project. The Clerk will provide them a list of questions he developed for their consideration to pose to the Colonel for this visit as he won't be in town for that meeting.
- He learned today that Rep Kevin Meyers who is the Chair of the House Finance Committee and responsible for the 2006 Capital Appropriations Budget will be in Nome on March 9. He will make arrangements for the Council to meet with him. It is a session break and the City asked them to come to Nome and look at their proposed projects.
- He provided a written synopsis of their trip to Washington, D.C. Utility Manager Handeland, Mayor Michels and he had a mixed bag trip. They had some success on some issues, but on others they are still working through the federal process trying to resolve some of their issues, particularly with the NOAA bond.

C. Andersen asked how much area they are talking about for the Public Safety Building. City Manager Romenesko stated that side is 2.5 acres and the encumbrances is over half of that. C. Andersen asked if he was aware of this before the sale. City Manager Romenesko stated he wasn't but it turned up in the title search. He is trying to get DOT to release some of this property. From his perspective it is for their city field property and there are no planes landing there and it is not in their clear zone for approaching the runway. It doesn't seem to meet their needs so he is trying to convince them the highest and best use would be to release it to the City. Mayor Michels meets with them on Wednesday and she has calls in to them to discuss this.

C. Andersen stated regarding Representative Foster he is talking about \$8,000,000 in city street projects. City Manager Romenesko stated that is for Front Street. There was \$5,000,000 in Garvey bonds when they were sold and this last year they were able to move \$3,000,000 in Garvey bonds that were going to be spent in Bethel to Nome because they had a project ready to go.

C. Andersen asked what the \$1,000,000 Center Creek Project is. City Manager Romenesko stated DOT is supposedly going to pave Center Creek from the intersection at the airport to AMCC.

C. Andersen asked if they have heard anything more on the Bypass Road from DOT. City Manager Romenesko stated the Mayor will meet with DOT folks on Wednesday to talk about this.

C. Knodel stated she noticed the figures are up on the juvenile/alcohol problem and asked if they have a plan to deal with this. Chief Moates stated as a result of one of the Community Policing Trainings they had a subcommittee was developed with the regional wellness forum through Kawerak. He is on that committee and they are in the process of developing strategies to try to address this with business owners, bar owners, etc. They have had a meeting and will be meeting again this month and they have strategies lined out to try to address this in a pro active manner rather than reactive.

### **COUNCILMEN COMMENTS**

C. Knodel mentioned the NSHC handout she provided in the packet. It is a report from the architect for the new hospital. The architects, Stephen Christopher and C. Brown, representing Bering Straits, went to Washington, D.C. to meet with IHS to go over a packet of questions IHS had about the schematics and drawings. They are down to six items at this time. IHS has to approve all of this before they go any further. The funding is not looking real good, but they are still working on this.

She also stated she appreciates the City crew snow removal on the side streets, and the NSHC Board of Directors will meet again March 6-10 at Pioneer Hall.

C. Larson stated one of the things he noticed on the design of the hospital is that it is a four story building on pilings. They will have to do something in terms of the emergency response vehicles to be able to get to the roof of that. He suggested Wesley Perkins and Charlie Lean get a copy of this and be involved in this. City Manager Romenesko stated that is a good point and he will make sure he gets with Stephen Christopher next time he is in town. C. Knodel mentioned he will be here March 3.

He stated he liked Chief Moates idea on the NACTEC police curriculum. He thinks this is a real good idea and he might want to consider including fire service because there is a pressing need in all of the villages for someone who knows how to fight fires. If with village public safety officers could be combined in the role of a fire chief or fire responder it may be an additional mechanism to encourage the State to adequately fund positions in the villages for one position with combined skills.

Chief Moates stated they got involved at the request of Mayor Michels, Kawerak and the BPSO Program. But they also have a need to have candidates from this area trained who might want to enter the law enforcement field. He will check into this.

C. Pomeranz stated he would like the Council to reconsider a couple of the motions for the facility fee waivers. He doesn't think they want to discourage the young people from doing what they want to do. The Business Professional Women are all volunteers and it is going back into the community for scholarships.

A motion was made by C. Pomeranz and seconded by C. Andersen to discuss the Junior Iditarod Musers Fundraiser Banquet fee waiver request again.

Cari Miller stated normally they would approach the Council before their event takes place. This has already happened and they had overwhelming support of the community. They had 60 businesses support these junior mushers and over 300 people attended the banquet. They raised over \$12,000. She stated she thinks that speaks volumes as far as community support. They may ask why they should support the junior mushers. They all see the kids out there getting involved in alcohol and drugs and smoking behind the Glue Pot. These four kids are not them. They don't have time for that. That kind of dedication they don't find in fourteen and fifteen year old kids these days. These kids are taking care of their dogs and running their dog teams and they are doing it 365 days a year on top of all of their normal duties. These four kids have shown a dedication that the Council should appreciate and respect. As far as the waiver of the use fee, that is up to them whether they waive it or not, but the kids have taken on the name of Team Nome. Never before have they had four kids from Nome who have competed in the Junior Iditarod. A lot of people feel that dog mushing as a sport is going by the wayside and these four kids are carrying it on. If they look at it from the sport aspect, Nome loves basketball and everyone is supportive of the basketball teams and volleyball teams which are completely funded by the school.

These kids do not have to go out and buy their own basket balls; they don't have to pay for rink time or basketball time at the gym. Dog mushing is not like that. It is completely self funded and with the history of dog mushing in this community she thinks it is great these kids are carrying it on.

She was approached by several people thanking her for putting on this banquet that was to support the kids but also to focus on the local Iditarod mushers, the local dog mushing community and to celebrate them and apparently that has not happened before. She has been asked to make this an annual event. This was the only way to ask for City support by not asking for money in any other shape or form.

C. Andersen asked if there was any problem with the clean up. City Clerk Wessel stated there wasn't.

C. Brown asked if they waive fees for Iditarod Trail Committee. City Manager Romenesko stated they do.

C. Larson stated it is not a matter of whether they support the kids or support the organization, there is a certain amount of expense that results from running those buildings and whether the taxpayers in general ought to be providing that or whether the fundraising activities themselves should cover those expenses as part of their fixed costs is the only difficulty he has with granting these requests. He does think they need a policy that is workable.

C. Andersen stated until they have a policy and advertise it so people know it ahead of time it is hard to make decisions on these requests.

C. Larson stated they may need to think of a policy that has different fees for non profit and for other entities and the fee for the non profit is an absolute minimum so they can get something to pay for the oil and maintenance of these buildings.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown

Nays: Knodel

The motion CARRIED.

A motion was made by C. Pomeranz and seconded by C. Andersen to reconsider the vote on the Annual Miners and Mushers Ball fee waiver request.

C. Brown stated he will change his vote on this. Part of what played in his vote previously is there has been comments that the organization needed to benefit the entire community. The proceeds from this event don't benefit the entire community. They go to scholarships for a select group as opposed to the entire community. He is not sure that he agrees with these criteria anyway so he will be changing his vote.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown, Knodel, Larson

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

C. Andersen no comment.

C. Brown no comment.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

Mayor Michels stated she provided a written report to the Council. She mentioned the following:

- The community safety work group met last week and a couple of call ins were wondering if the city would consider lighting improvements. She wondered if the LEPC has done the safety assessments on what they can do on lighting improvements and things like that. City Manager Romenesko stated they haven't. Mayor Michels stated they did this at the University of Alaska after there was a murder and it really improved lighting and safety in those areas where crime usually happens. The suggestion was to have some kind of camera set in town around River Street where stuff usually happens and she told them she would bring it up.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- ~Reindeer Plant: Financial and Legal Strategies which may have an Adverse Affect on City Finances.
- ~Discussion re: Contract Renewal Negotiation with the City Manager.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to enter into executive session.

The Council adjourned to executive session at 1:15 p.m.

The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 1:40 p.m.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to extend the City Manager's Contract for another two years effective December 8, 2005 to December 8, 2007.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown


Mayor Michels informed the Council she has requested a City credit card. She has had to do so much travel for the City that there is a need for one.

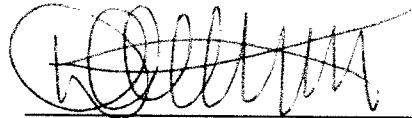
### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

**SIGNED AND DATED** this 27th day of February, 2006.

  
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LESLEE M. WESSEL, City Clerk/Treasurer

  
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DENISE MICHELS, Mayor