

**MINUTES
NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 27, 2006**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Common Council was called to order at 7:30 P.M. 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 Bourdon, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, Randy Pomeranz.

Members Absent:

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

In the audience: Jesse Zink, KNOM; Ted Meyer, Nome Nugget; Barb Nickels, Jim Adams, Aldrich O. Mazonna, Jana Varrati, Berda Willson, Kacy Fullwood, George Fullwood, Fred A. Eningowuk, and General Craig Christensen.

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 13, 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve the February 13, 2006 regular meeting minutes.

C. Andersen corrected the minutes to say Representative Foster instead of Congressman Richards during the City Manager's report.

At the roll call:
Ayes: Brown, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen
Nays:
Abstain: Bourdon

The motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Michels read the communications by title.

CITIZENS GRIEVANCES AND REQUESTS

General Craig Christensen, Commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, stated he is in Nome at the Mayor's invite to talk to them about the progress of a new Armory. The National Guard is changing and transforming. On September 1, 2008 they will go from the Scout Group they have been since Statehood to one of the Army's new organizations being formed, 23 of which are in the national guard and 28 of which are in the army involving all 50 states and territories. What that means is that for the next 20 to 30 years there will be new equipment, new money, new resources and relevance for the guard. They are not downsizing or disbanding but are actually staying the same or growing slightly. They are going on a recruiting effort to all 73 of their locations to see if they can get their membership up like he remembers the guard of 15 and 20 years ago that was strong throughout all of Alaska, particularly rural Alaska which

is the heart of the guard. They would appreciate any support the Council or the community can offer to the guard.

They are still on track with regard to the new armory or readiness center in Nome. The center in Juneau is completed and they had a ribbon cutting this summer. The center in Bethel is well under way. Last summer there was a major construction effort of site preparation, earth removal, back filling, etc. Nome, one of the three hubs of the Guard, is on the schedule and supported by the new organization. They finished up their lease and paperwork in the summer of 2005. They did the assessment of the land which showed they have a lease, environmental cleanliness, and the cultural evaluation for historical issues completed. They have been able to get it on the list in Washington D.C. It is the National Guards, General Campbell's and his department's number 1 priority for new construction. They expect it to come out on the Future Year Development Plan (FYDP) this year in Washington D.C. That is important because if it is not on the plan, it will not get funded and the congressman and senators have said they will not pull a project that is not on the FYDP to the forefront and fund it. That will permit their representatives in D.C. next year to prioritize that and pull it off the listing as a special funding or construction item. So to recap, they are talking about it making the D.C. priority listing this year, October 1, 2006, and it being available to be looked at before the Congress gets out in the summer of 2007. If it gets picked up in the 06-07 fiscal year the earliest they could possibly see money would be November or December of 2007 which means at best case doing ground breaking or earth work in the spring/summer of 2008. The Army National Guard absolutely wants a new army National Guard readiness center in Nome and they are on track to do that through the cyclic process already mentioned. They will take a facility that already exists that meets their requirements and site adapt it on to the location here which will save time and money. He thanked the Council for their assistance in obtaining land in Nome and allowing them jointly to plan for a new center to be built. The disposition of the existing facility will be to the City of Nome.

Mayor Michels explained that the Council put support of the new armory in both their state and federal legislative priority packet.

C. Andersen asked about the total cost and the funding mix. Gen. Christensen stated the federal/state mix is still 75%/25%. C. Andersen asked when they should start pushing that support. Gen. Christensen stated probably the Spring of 2007. The mark on the wall is about a \$22,000,000 facility.

Mayor Michels thanked Gen. Christensen for coming to Nome and sharing this information.

Laura Samuelson, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum Director, reported they receive new donations weekly. A few weeks ago, they receive notice that an old Nome family has included them in their will. The museum has earned a fine reputation that the citizens can be proud of. A recent out-of-town visitor, after spending two hours in the museum, wrote in the guest book – outstanding content, very well laid out, a must for any visitor. 2005 was another successful year for the museum. In summary, the most important thing they have are volunteers. They have nine volunteers who donated over 950 hours to them in the last year.

They had 480 research requests last year ranging on all different topics. Most incredibly they had 47 donors in 2005 giving them 1500 photos, 160 objects and 143 separate historical documents. Most notable of those donations is the Avaloo Boyd collection from Caroline McLain Reader which consists of over 500 pictures that once belonged to Carrie McLain. What is fabulous about these photos is Carrie McLain herself identified what is in each photo on the back. They recently received the Curtis Jacobs Photo collection. These are photos taken by Curtis Jacobs, Sr., between 1917 and 1948. Jacobs was the premier photographer in Nome during this period of time. He filmed all of the major events including the Amundsen expedition, pre-1934 fire, all the major storms, Eskimo life, the Charles Lindbergh visit through here and the Wiley Post crash at Barrow. She showed some pictures of the collection. She stated a couple of weeks ago a person wrote to her from upstate New York through e-mail saying he had an album he wanted to put on EBay and if they wanted to buy it they could. She wrote back to him and he gave it to them. This gentleman was here working for the Army in 1900-1901 and he worked with Billy Mitchell and General Dolphin Screeley and this is his complete album. Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas is shutting down and there is a nurse at the hospital who volunteered at the Billy Mitchell

Museum on Kelly Air Force Base for a long time. They will be getting five boxes of Billy Mitchell's collections from his time in Alaska.

There was some discussion regarding where she puts it all. She explained there is plenty of secure storage space aside from the museum for Nome history.

Mayor Michels asked when they are going to design a new museum. She thought they had some money for one. City Manager Romenesko stated they have \$50,000. She thanked Laura for the presentation and information.

Berda Willson, Chairperson of the Regional Wellness Forum, gave an update on the Iditarod Safety Patrol which will be patrolling Friday, March 10 through Saturday, March 18 depending on the number of volunteers they can get. They still need volunteers and there will be a volunteer orientation/information meeting at 12:00 noon on Friday, March 3, at the Kawerak new conference room. She encouraged volunteers to contact her at 5312 or e-mail her at bwillson@gci.net. She explained the safety patrol is only a presence. They are not law enforcers or medical responders. They carry cell phones and radios. She showed the reflective vest they are issued and hats that will be given to each of the volunteers.

Mayor Michels thanked everyone who participates in the safety patrol.

Barb Nickels announced the formation of a new committee of concerned persons in Nome. In August an idea was presented to the Regional Wellness Forum to form a committee with a long term goal of reducing occurrences of minors consuming alcohol and she is happy to announce they have formed the committee. She is serving and the Co-Chair with Berda Willson serving as the Chair. The committee is sponsored by multiple agencies in Nome. A few of their initial goals is to invite participation from bar owners, liquor store owners and front street businesses to their meetings for suggestions. They will identify areas of town where underage drinking may occur. They will create a baseline of these occurrences, develop educational strategies and eventually conclude a percentage of reduction. A lot of the committee members came to the meeting and she recognized them. Their next meeting is March 24 at 12:15 at the Nome Youth Facility. She invited anyone interested to attend.

Jim Adams stated he heard on the radio the Council was thinking of raising the rates at the recreation center and he is hoping they don't do that. He will be retiring soon and that would be an additional expense he would object to.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-05-12-03 An Ordinance Amending chapter 15.70 of the Nome City code to Add a New Section Prohibiting Plastic Bags Used for Carry Out in Retail Business.

City Clerk Wessel clarified that this has already had first and second reading and it was never acted on. It was placed on the agenda to bring it to a conclusion.

C. Larson stated his recollection is they didn't have a second reading. City Clerk stated they had a first reading and a second reading and then a motion was made to approve but before it was acted on there was a motion to amend to use the attorney's language and then there was a motion to postpone it. C. Andersen stated it should not be on the agenda. C. Larson stated it was tabled until now. City Clerk Wessel stated they postponed it and then their work session talked about not even acting on it at all and that leaves it hanging and not resolved. C. Andersen clarified they need to make a motion to approve. City Clerk Wessel stated that is what she recommends and if the Council doesn't want to do this the vote would fail.

Mayor Michels asked about the next time. City Clerk Wessel stated they would create a new ordinance in the future addressing this issue if they don't feel the situation has approved based on what they have asked staff to do.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Bourdon to adopt O-05-12-03.

C. Andersen stated he would like to table this. C. Larson stated he could make a motion to table this and that would supercede a motion to approve it. City Clerk Wessel stated then it just hangs out there unresolved. C. Andersen stated that is the idea to leave it hanging until September or whenever. City Clerk Wessel stated she would recommend they do away with this one and they bring back a new one at the time they decided to renew interest in it. The numbering gets tricky if it is an 2005 ordinance and it is not acted on until October of 2006.

Mayor Michels stated they can introduce new ordinances at any time.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Bourdon, Larson.

Nays: Knodel, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown

The motion FAILED.

C. Andersen clarified what the City Manager will be doing in the meantime. City Manager Romenesko stated they are going to start cell 2, do public education, get more litter picked up inside the landfill, get some additional portable litter fences, try to pick up more often and charge for uncovered loads.

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

Hearing no objection the Mayor asked the Clerk for second reading of O-06-02-01.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing the Council recessed at 7:59 P.M. There being no public comment the Council reconvened into regular session at 7:59 P.M.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve O-06-02-01.

C. Andersen stated according to the City Manager's memo a lot of the amendment is for PERS. City Manager Romenesko stated \$64,000 worth. C. Andersen asked if there is a good chance they will get reimbursed. City Manager Romenesko stated there is a bill moving through the legislature that would reimburse them but there is no guarantee. C. Andersen stated he wanted a report on the goals and accomplishments. He asked about the sale of police cars. City Manager Romenesko stated they have not done anything as their vehicles came in late. The old vehicles are parked in storage. C. Andersen asked if they have done anything to make the City buildings more efficient. City Manager Romenesko stated they are continually upgrading as they move along. They have changed most of the ballasts to the high efficiency electronic ballasts. C. Andersen asked the City Clerk if she is doing anything on the sales tax collections upgrade. City Clerk Wessel state they are still in research mode and are working toward that. C. Andersen asked about the remodel of the Recreation Center. City Manager Romenesko stated Evelyn Rousso with USKH is under contract to do that work and is currently working on that. C. Andersen asked how much a PA system is. City Manager Romenesko stated they budgeted for \$50,000 and he thinks they awarded the contract for \$48,500. The PA system is actually being installed as they speak.

C. Andersen stated the travel per diem is 82%-95% in some cases and the Administration section of the budget is over in a lot of areas. Is the idea that they are not using money from somewhere else in the

budget so it will cover it eventually. City Manager Romenesko stated some of it will be intradepartmental transfers, some are actual expenditures. For example they have purchased so many PFD tickets and they have only used so many to date. C. Andersen mentioned the Police over time which is already over. Will they shuffle that around? City Manager Romenesko stated they actually do that partly in this budget where in the Police Department they have reduced salaries and benefits by almost \$50,000 to reflect actuals to date to reflect what they think it will take them to get through the rest of the year. They did increase over time to cover that particular line. C. Andersen stated on those that are over, there should be some kind of an explanation as to why they are over and what they are going to do. The Council advertising is at 400% over and there is not a whole lot of money left in the Council and Mayor's budget. Mayor Michels stated her budget will be over because of the additional trip to Washington she is having to take. C. Andersen stated he doesn't like the process where they spend the money and four months later they throw more money in to cover it. To him why even bother having a budget if that is the way they are going to do it. Once or twice a year they ought to go through and add money in to where they think it is going to be needed. City Manager Romenesko stated that is what they are doing here. His objective in managing the budget is to try to stay within the budget. When they get things like PERS nailing them they can't control that right now. To be honest from the legislative budget he defers to the Council when they establish the budget to establish the travel. This year there are certain opportunities that presented themselves. They tried with this amendment to capture what they have done to date and where they have made changes. If they didn't have a clear picture on it they left it alone. C. Andersen stated he thinks they should be holding the departments to their goals. At the last budget cycle they gave them a five-year look back at some of the goals and it is interesting to see what happened in the Rec Center when they were taking in more money, the MCC and St. Joes, etc.

C. Brown asked where they could get a copy of the percentage of budget spent in relation to the percentage of year gone by. City Manager Romenesko stated they can provide that information whenever they want it. C. Brown asked if it is possible to get a copy of the budget to actual expenditures made. City Manager Romenesko stated they will receive a report which shows the amended budget amount and the expenditures to date or revenue to date and it will show what the unencumbered balance is and what percentage has been spent. They can then do the analysis with how much of the year has gone by.

C. Brown stated on the revenue side he noticed that the general sales tax collections has not changed. Is there an expectation that the sales tax numbers won't change. City Manager Romenesko stated when they first put the budget together, they estimated 3.3 million . They were pretty much on track until December, but the Council through a couple of actions deferred a percent on utilities and a percent on groceries and since that just happened they decided it wasn't worth changing this 3.3 mark, because they didn't have a good feel for the impact of the changes they made. He thinks they will be above the 3.3, but not as much as they had originally anticipated. C. Brown stated they are still at a deficit for the year of \$900,000. City Manager Romenesko stated that is correct.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

- C. O-06-02-02 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2006 Capital Projects Fund Budget.
- D. O-06-02-03 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2006 Special Revenue Fund Budget.
- E. O-06-02-04 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2006 Port of Nome Fund Budget.
- F. O-06-02-05 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2006 Construction Capital Projects Fund Budget.

Hearing no objection from the Council Mayor Michels asked the Clerk for the second reading of O-06-02-02, O-06-02-03, O-06-02-04 and O-06-02-05.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing the Council recessed at 8:09 P.M. There being no comments the Council reconvened at 8:09 P.M.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to approve O-06-02-02, O-06-02-03, O-06-02-04 and O-06-02-05.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

G. Proposal to Update Nome Recreation Center Fee Schedule.

City Manager Romenesko stated this was brought to the Council at the last meeting, February 13. At that time they asked him and Director Leeper to project revenue that may be derived from the rate increase. There is a memo from Director Leeper dated February 22, 2006 where he made his best guess at a potential revenue increase. They provided information regarding what the revenues are and what the expenditures are over the life of that facility or since 1990 so they can get an idea of how much the revenue offsets the expenses. He provided a pie chart that shows them that the passes, admissions and membership fees which are the bulk of the proposed fee proposal generates 49% of the overall revenue for the center. He provided them five years of historical budget on the different revenue components that they track at the facility.

C. Andersen asked about the numbers on the rent if that is the actual cash received or are they reducing it by the amounts waived. City Manager stated it is both. It includes the rental money they derive from actual cash and it also reflects the offset to the expense on the legislative line item on donations.

C. Andersen stated they really don't know how much cash they receive. Director Leeper stated it does vary depending on years. A few years ago when they had the AML conference and they had a couple of lengthy conferences, the City's contribution was substantially more than other years when they just had a high quantity of rentals for various things.

C. Andersen stated the seniors do not pay anything now. Director Leeper stated currently at the Rec Center they don't pay anything to get in. C. Andersen asked if there are a lot of them. Director Leeper stated there are a decent amount. That sort of factored in a tad into the extra revenue but he didn't weight that very much in projecting ahead to what these new fees could mean as far as revenue.

C. Bourdon asked if he has heard from any seniors. Director Leeper stated today he heard from one guy and he said he understands the need for seniors to pay, but he would like to see a reduced rate.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve the proposed Recreation Center Fee Schedule.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-06-02-06 An Ordinance Approving the 2006 Operations and Maintenance Budget for Nome Joint Utilities System.

Hearing no objection from the Council, Mayor Michels asked the Clerk for the first reading of O-06-02-06.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to place O-06-02-06 into second reading, public hearing and final passage.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

- B. O-06-02-07 An Ordinance Approving the 2006 Capital Budget for Nome Joint Utilities System.

Hearing no objection from the Council, Mayor Michels asked the Clerk for the first reading of O-06-02-07.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Knodel to place O-06-02-07 into second reading, public hearing and final passage.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

- C. R-06-02-03 A Resolution Requesting Financial Assistance from the State of Alaska-Dept. of Environmental Conservation to Provide Funding for Water & Sewer System Replacements/Upgrades.

Hearing no objection from the Council Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-06-02-03.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Knodel to approve R-06-02-03.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

- D. R-06-02-04 A Resolution Requesting Financial Assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Utilities Service to Provide Funding for Water & Sewer System Replacements/Upgrades.

Hearing no objection from the Council Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-06-02-04.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-06-02-04.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

E. R-06-02-05 A Resolution Requesting Financial Assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development to Provide Funding for Plan Development of a Community Multi-Use Equipment/Personnel Work Facility.

Hearing no objection from the Council Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-06-02-05.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-06-02-05.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

F. R-06-02-06 A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Nome Machine Works for the Provision of Emergency Services Vehicle Repair and Service.

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

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

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

G. R-06-02-07 A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Q Trucking Garage for the Provision of Light Duty Vehicles and Heavy Duty & Specialty Vehicle/Equipment Repair and Service.

Hearing no objection from the Council Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-06-02-07.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Larson to approve R-06-02-07.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

H. R-06-02-08 A Resolution Setting the Date for the 2006 Board of Equalization.

Hearing no objection from the Council Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-06-02-08.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to approve R-06-02-08.

C. Larson stated he will be out of town from May 3 to the end of May. C. Bourdon stated she also would be out of town during that time.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

I. Manager Memo re: Nome Jr./Sr. High School Re-Organization Project Bid.

City Manager Romenesko stated they went out to bid for the Junior High Reorganization project. They received one responsive bidder in the amount of \$3,000,000. The engineer's estimate is 1.5 million. Neither he, the Engineer or the Architect can make a recommendation for award. The bid documents do allow them the right to reject any and all bids and to advertise the new bids without liability if it is in the best interest of the City. It is his recommendation that the Council by motion make a recommendation to award the bid and hopefully it won't pass. That way he can let the contractor know that his bid was not accepted and he can get out of his bonding obligations. It is worth noting that DOT just did a bid for their airport fire response building. The same firm did the bid estimate and that estimate was right in the middle of the three bids they received for the DOT job. He is not sure if there was a problem with the estimate or the bidding environment, but he will pursue that and get back to them with a recommendation.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to accept the bid from Hankal Construction.

At the roll call:

Ayes:

Nays: Bourdon, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown

The motion FAILED.

Mayor Michels left the Council meeting at 8:25 P.M. C. Andersen took over Chair of the meeting.

J. Request for Waiver of City Use Fees for the Nome Recreation Center for Kawerak Regional Conference, April 2-6, 2006.

A motion was made by C. Pomeranz and seconded by C. Brown to approve the request for a Waiver of City Use Fees for the Nome Recreation Center.

C. Brown stated this looks like it has been granted for several years. City Manager Romenesko stated it has been granted since FY 2000.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown, Knodel

Nays:

Abstain: Bourdon

The motion CARRIED.

K. Request for Waiver of City Use Fees for Old St. Joseph's Church for Kawerak Regional Conference, April 2-6, 2006.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Andersen to approve the request for a Waiver of City Use Fees for Old St. Joes.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

Abstain: Bourdon

The motion CARRIED.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

A. January 17, 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes

CITY MANAGER REPORT

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

- Congratulations to Pat Hahn for passing the International Code Council (ICC) Residential Electrical Inspector examination.
- He stated they are preparing for Iditarod to sound the siren for all finishers. It will be a short 10 to 15 second duration sound and it will be tested the week of March 6 through 10 so everyone will know what to expect.
- As he mentioned earlier the new sound system is currently being installed at the Recreation Center and it will be functional for the Iditarod events.
- They finalized the amendment for the Small Boat Harbor lease with Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation that the Council authorized in November. The plat has been recorded and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with NSEDC to delineate their funding contribution. He acknowledged the efforts of Joy Baker, the Harbor Master, in developing the proposal and he thanked Mr. Eugene Asicksik and Ms. Janis Ivanoff for helping to bring this to fruition. They have been working on this since March of 2005. They will be using that money to fund some of the projects they have going on in the Port Harbor area.
- Congressman Young and Mr. Bill Sherrill will be here in Nome for the Iditarod Finishing Banquet and Award Ceremony.
- They currently have an RFP out on the street for the public safety building project. Proposals are due by March 10 and they need to do a short list by March 29. They need a selection committee to review the RFPs. He recommended that the Committee be composed of the Police Chief, the Ambulance Chief, himself and at least one Council Member and the City Engineer. He asked if one of the Council Members would be willing to review the proposals and partake in the oral interviews. C. Pomeranz volunteered to participate.
- He pointed out that March 7 the Planning Commission will be having a work session at 6:00 P.M. in City Hall and they will be discussing non conforming uses in the proposed Land Use Zoning

Code. If someone has an interest in grandfather rights of existing structures and what potential impact there will be to them as the code develops they may want to participate in that meeting. He stated they will try to get more word out regarding this issue.

C. Knodel stated in the last couple of weeks she has had people ask her about the bowling alley. Has it definitely been decided that it is going away. She stated people are telling her the reason they quit going bowling was because there was only one or two lanes open and it made it hard to get there when they wanted to get there. City Manager Romenesko stated it has not been functionally open for at least two years. He stated they tried to recruit a mechanic to keep it going and they have not had any success there. They do have someone on staff who has skills in that but they have been taking parts and pieces from the other lanes to keep these two lanes going. C. Knodel asked if they could check into the cost of putting in new lanes or machinery before they go too far into the remodel plans. She also suggested they do some kind of a community survey to see if people would use it. City Manager Romenesko stated they could do that.

C. Brown asked about the reassessment for property values. City Clerk Wessel stated they started the second week in January and it has not been completed yet but they are waiting for the assessors to come back with some additional information so it is in progress. C. Brown asked if the assessors came to Nome. City Clerk Wessel stated they came and spent a week here and as she has been entering new numbers into the tax roll it is has been a little over a 9% increase. C. Brown asked when the notices will go out. City Clerk Wessel stated they will be sent out before the end of March.

C. Pomeranz asked if they could look at putting new lights in the Rec Center. The new gymnasium lighting really shows the inadequacies of the Rec Center. City Manager Romenesko stated the lights at the high school are more energy efficient. If they were to replace the eighteen 400 watt fixtures they have at the Rec Center it would cost approximately \$4400 to go with a similar style as out at the high school. He asked Building Official Hahn to get a better fix on the cost and look at it from a capital project for next fiscal year and even find out if they could replace it piecemeal. Before they spend money they will check it out more thoroughly.

C. Larson asked if repainting the bottom portion on the walls to a lighter color would make a difference. City Manager stated they chose the dark color because from a maintenance perspective it is much better than when they had the light colored walls.

C. Andersen stated they need to fix the roof yet.

C. Andersen asked if Colonel Gallagher will be coming back. City Manager Romenesko stated he has not heard from him since his flight was cancelled, however, he does know he is still interested in visiting with them.

C. Andersen asked about the Bypass Road and DOT. City Manager Romenesko stated he visited with Pat Kelleher and he thinks they are making forward progress on the Bypass Road. They are going to end up getting maintenance responsibility of that road. C. Andersen asked if they will upgrade it first. City Manager Romenesko stated they will upgrade it first and then the City will end up signing a maintenance agreement with them.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

C. Brown thanked the snow removal guys for the excellent job they have been doing. He appreciates that they go beyond just the streets to clear the snow out.

C. Bourdon. No comments.

C. Knodel requested they set a work session in April to discuss facility fee waiver problem and come up with a way to do it so that it is fair and equitable and they have guidelines.

C. Larson. No comments.

C. Pomeranz. No comments.

C. Andersen stated he has a winner for the trash contest and it is Rusty James. They had a total of six entries from Nome and five from outside the area . Rusty is very thorough and goes into netting, incinerating, etc. in some detail. He provides information on what several villages are doing or not doing.

He mentioned a person in Bethel who has built a stove in a warehouse and is heating the warehouse by burning cardboard. He like these kinds of ideas. He appreciates resourcefulness.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

~Real Property Issues: Financial and Legal Strategies which may have an Adverse Affect on City Finances.

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

The Council recessed to executive session at 8:43 P.M.

The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 9:36 P.M.


A motion was made by C. Pomeranz and seconded by C. Knodel to cancel the March 13, 2006 regular meeting because of Iditarod.

The motion CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, Presiding Councilman Stan Andersen adjourned the regular meeting at 9:37 P.M.

SIGNED AND DATED this 27th day of March, 2006.



DENISE MICHELS, Mayor



LESLEE M. WESSEL, City Clerk/Treasurer