

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 26, 2007**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Presiding Councilman Stan Andersen 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, Randy Pomeranz

Members Absent: Mayor Denise Michels, Jerald Brown

Also Present: City Manager Randy Romenesko, City Clerk Leslee Wessel, Chief of Police Craig Moates

In the audience: Jesse Zink, KNOM; Sandra Medearis, Arctic News; Donald Handeland, GCI; Jim Adams, Gary Hart, Louie Green, Jr., Bruce Klein, Joan Finke, Mitch Erickson

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 12, 2007 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve the minutes as presented.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Andersen, Bourdon, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

CITIZENS REQUESTS AND GRIEVANCES

Gary Hart asked if there are more details on motorbus regulation changes from the Attorney.

City Manager Romenesko explained they received a draft motor bus ordinance from the City Attorney on Friday late in the day. Staff will digest it and get it to the council at a later date.

Mr. Hart asked if there are changes. City Manager Romenesko explained it went from a one paragraph ordinance to approximately three pages. He stated it is pretty detailed and he believes a motorbus would have to have some type of route established. Mr. Hart asked if he could have a copy of the draft. City Manager Romenesko stated he could. Mr. Hart asked if they have a work session or meeting on it that they notify the parties involved. Mr. Romenesko stated they would post the agenda.

C. Andersen asked about grandfathering provisions for existing uses. City Clerk explained the City Attorney mentioned anyone who has a motorbus license under the current code would still be able to operate, but they expire December 31, 2007 and when they renew they would have to follow the new regulations.

Bruce Klein, Director of Nome Community Center, stated he has two requests of the Council. The Nome Community Center is going after a capital improvement grant for the Senior Center. They are applying for

\$180,000 to do the carpeting and linoleum throughout the building. They are requesting a letter of support for them to do this. The money would be used to hire a laborer. They went after the grant last year and didn't get it. They hope the letter of support will help them.

C. Andersen questioned \$180,000 just for carpeting and linoleum. Mr. Klein explained by the time they get it shipped up here and do the upstairs and downstairs, the kitchen and all the rooms it will cost approximately that much. He stated it is a special type of carpeting that is used for elderly people who go up and down stairs. City Manager Romenesko asked when the letter of support is needed. Mr. Klein stated the grant is due March 28.

Mr. Klein stated their second request is regarding the Federal gardening grant they have at the school and the second greenhouse at power plant. They are also bringing in a brand new tractor. They want to try outside gardening in a plot. With the garden clubs and master gardener's actually growing things, they are hoping the city will let them use a piece of land next to the Head Start Day Care center if it is available. They would take care of it, roto till, water, take care of all gardening and at end of growing season they would roto till it and put it back to where it was. They would not be using pesticides. It is an attempt to get fresh vegetables and fruits for the senior center and food bank.

City Manager Romenesko showed the council the area they are talking about. He stated there are two vacant filled lots, lots 1 and 2, adjacent to the facility.

C. Andersen asked what type of material they would use. Mr. Klein stated they would work with the Gardening Club and with the school and use a mixture of peat moss, potting soil and natural sand.

C. Andersen asked if the City has those lots up for sale. City Manager Romenesko stated they don't. C. Andersen asked if they were saving them for anything. City Manager Romenesko stated he doesn't think they are saved for anything special. C. Andersen requested an inventory of the land they are not using.

C. Knodel asked if they want one lot or both lots. Mr. Klein stated they would like to use both of the lots. They would like to do try this for at least three years.

Mitch Erickson informed the Council the Nome Youth Hockey are bringing Barrow to play the 8, 9 and 10 of March. This will be the first time as far as he knows there will be a hockey game in Nome. The kids are 12 through 16 years of age and there are 14 kids coming from Barrow. He stated they are back hauling on the basketball team that is going to Barrow. He thanked the City for providing the skate rink for them.

Mr. Erickson continued by stating the Chamber of Commerce has been working on a regional promotional cd for cruise ships the last few years. They applied for a grant from NSEDC and received it. They have received additional funding from Kawerak and a few other places. He would like to set up a meeting with the Port Commission or representatives thereof to get the City's input on the script writing and what they are looking at.

Jim Adams stated he understands from earlier meetings they are looking at alternative energy sources. The fuel bill is getting to be 70% of the light bill. He doesn't know what the studies have been, but he would like them to keep looking at it.

C. Andersen stated the Utility Board has had money budgeted for it. He is not sure how far they have come. Jim Adams stated he has heard talk of wind studies. City Manager Romenesko stated there will be an energy work group meeting here March 8 and he knows the Utility is working on this with the Department of Energy. He will get information for Mr. Adams and he will tell the Utility Manager of his concerns. C. Andersen stated the Chamber has had a couple of seminars on alternative energy.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-07-02-01 An Ordinance amending Ordinance O-01-05-4 Authorizing the Acquisition of National Park Service Property Located on Block 63, Lot 1A Through Exchange for City of Nome Property Located on Block 63, Lot.

~First Reading.

Hearing no objection C. Andersen asked the City Clerk for the first reading of O-07-02-01.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Knodel to pass O-07-02-01 on to second reading, public hearing and final passage.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

- B. O-07-02-02 An Ordinance Approving the Revised Nome Coastal District Coastal Management Plan, Replacing the Nome Coastal Management Plan as Approved February 15, 1984 and Setting an Effective Date.

~First Reading

Hearing no objection C. Andersen asked the City Clerk for the first reading of O-07-02-02.

A motion was made by C. Pomeranz and seconded by C. Bourdon to pass O-07-02-02 on to second reading, public hearing and final passage.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

- C. R-07-02-02 A Resolution Authorizing Package Store License Holders to Remain Open Until 12:00 Midnight During the Week of Tuesday, March 13, 2007 Through Saturday, March 17, 2007.

Hearing no objection C. Andersen asked the City Clerk to read R-07-02-02.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-07-02-02.

Discussion.

C. Knodel stated she thinks they need to amend the Code to add this provision so they don't need to do this every year. C. Andersen asked if this could be added to the other ordinance. City Manager Romenesko asked if they wanted him to introduce an ordinance to amend the Code permanently. C. Andersen stated yes.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Romenesko reported the following:

- The Ad Hoc Transportation Committee met with representatives from AkDOT and PDC Engineers to discuss the Bypass road project on February 16. He will provide them with minutes of the meeting, but in essence they concurred that the Bypass Road will be built within the existing right of way to control costs and keep the project on a reasonable schedule. The current total project cost estimate for Phase I is \$4,000,000. There is \$3,500,000 in funding for the Bypass Road. They will need to move some earmarks that the City received for Nome City streets to the Bypass Road to make the dollars work. They will limit construction from East N Street to the Teller Highway. The plan would be to complete the design draft this year and go to bid in 2008.
- He has worked with AKDOT for selection of an engineering consultant for the Nome City Streets project. They are in the process of finalizing the contract. He is hoping they will have someone on board soon so they can put together a work plan. The focus will be paving of West Fifth Avenue from Bering to Steadman Street and drainage with paving for E. K Street.
- He pointed out regarding the operating budget that the snow line items in public works have been entirely expended for contract services and temporary help. The next snow storm will push the department over its budgeted appropriations.
- They are taking applications for the city clerk position until February 28. The Council appoints the Clerk and he asked them to put together a body to do interviews and background checks. C. Bourdon stated she will be out of town. C. Larson and C. Knodel stated they would be interested in helping. C. Andersen stated he will be a substitute.
- The Nome Public School District Superintendent sent him a note requesting a meeting between the School Board and the Council. He asked for dates and agenda items.

C. Knodel asked if they have agenda items or do they just want a meeting. City Manager Romenesko stated he believes the board is interested in meeting with the Council primarily to discuss budgetary issue. He suggested the week of the March 19th preferably mid week.

- He stated he, the Mayor and Utility Manager Handeland went to Washington, D.C. He stated they had good meetings with Senators Stevens and Murkowski and Congressman Young. They also met with their staff which is very beneficial. As a rule federal earmarks for special projects will be non existent. They had productive meetings regarding the NOAA bond obligation and discussions regarding the port project and trying to cap potential costs. It was a fast and furious week, but he feels very productive.

C. Andersen asked how many applications they have received for City Clerk. City Manager Romenesko stated they have received at least four and possibly six. C. Andersen suggested getting together Thursday or Friday to review the applications. City Manager Romenesko stated he won't be in town. C. Andersen stated that would be okay and suggested Thursday, March 1, at Noon. C. Larson and C. Knodel stated they would be available.

C. Larson asked how much money is in the Nome City streets earmark. City Manager Romenesko stated they have one earmark for \$1,000,000 and one for \$1,500,000. C. Larson stated his memo mentioned they would need \$4,000,000 for the Bypass road. He asked if there will be money for phase II. City Manager Romenesko stated they need to try to get DOT to apply through the STIP program for additional funds. The Council may be asked for a resolution supporting that project.

C. Larson stated if trucks are going to start hauling from Solomon is there some provision to keep the road open. City Manager Romenesko stated he believes they would have to do that.

C. Andersen stated the geotechnical work is done. In light of them getting the piece of property from National Park Service it gives them a pretty good chunk of land. When they first started out on the public safety building the main cause driving it was to get a police station. He suggested looking at that piece of land for a bare bones police building. Not to slow down the public safety building, but get something started sooner. City Manager Romenesko stated they could do that right now. They have a consultant right now under contract for this project. They have done the programming report and they know how big the pieces need to be for the different components. They can take those numbers and block it out and see how it fits. It wouldn't be terribly costly. C. Andersen stated several years ago Sitka got a new police station. They had it shipped up and then put it together. He is thinking there may be a cheaper way to get a new police station.

C. Knodel stated they have applied for another ambulance. There won't be a place to put it. City Manager Romenesko stated there is one bay in the current ambulance building and one bay in the current fire hall. He thinks both of them would support the new ambulance, but they definitely have no room for growth.

C. Andersen stated if they moved the police station they would have room for another bay there.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

C. Larson stated the dump is starting to look bad again in terms of litter. He stated he would like to discuss the Iditarod siren and its use during the end of the race. He would like to see it go off for the top ten finishers only in terms of middle of town. In terms of the one out by the school that doesn't generate the number of complaints. He doesn't know about the one at the power plant. City Manager Romenesko stated that is pretty localized. He stated they have the ability to do the top ten at the public works building and the remainder at the school. C. Larson stated he would like to try that. C. Knodel clarified the top ten at public works. She asked about the one at the school—is it not as loud? City Manager Romenesko stated it is as loud but because of the way it is situated north of the Elementary School, there is a little bit of space and it doesn't seem to bother people as much. C. Andersen clarified if they will then limit it to not go off from 12:00 to 6:00 a.m. C. Andersen stated the complaint he had was from doing it all night long. C. Pomeranz suggested they do the first ten on all sirens and the rest all the time at the school and see how that works.

C. Larson stated regarding the request by the sweepstakes. When he read through their request the City apparently contributes \$15,000 in cash to Iditarod and instead of doing \$15,000 for Iditarod maybe they should consider doing it for the sweepstakes next year.

C. Larson stated regarding Annexation. It seems to him they spend a lot of time on ways to cut taxes. If they annexed the area that contains the mine that is one way to increase revenues and spread the area to other taxpayers to help pay taxes. He doesn't know whether there is legal precedent for annexing an area that size. He would like to authorize the City Manager to talk to City Attorney and get a probability of if the annexation petition would be successful and worthwhile for the city. He doesn't think there is enough property owners in the other areas to warrant it without the mine.

C. Andersen asked if they have uncovered the information from the last discussion. City Manager Romenesko stated he pulled the file on that and there wasn't that much in it. C. Andersen stated the local boundary commission had a set of rules or manual explaining what they can and can't do. C. Larson stated he looked at the Alaska Administrative Code and the rules were very vague and he is asking for authorization to get advice from the attorney.

C. Andersen stated his objection to that is that legal counsel could spend forty hours on providing a yes or no answer.

City Manager Romenesko stated Eileen Bechtol will be here next week and she did the annexation in Homer and the City Attorney was on the opposite side of that issue and between the two of them there is enough information to put together. C. Andersen suggested they try to get information from AML or the Clerk's Association. City Manager Romenesko said he will talk to Kathy Wasserman, Director of AML.

C. Pomeranz offered condolences to the families who recently lost members of their family.

C. Andersen stated there is a problem with cars being parked on the corner of Bering and Front Streets. He suggested they ask the Covenant Church not to park there or put a sign up. It is hard to get around there. He would like the Chief to check on signing or other ways to protect the citizens. He also asked if the Chief would look into setting up a designated parking space for cabs at Hanson's. Maybe he could look at using officers to direct traffic.

C. Bourdon had no comments.

C. Knodel mentioned the problem at the corner of Front and Division Street. She stated if someone parks in front of the vacant building, traffic has to go way out into the street past the stop sign from Division to see if they can proceed on to Front Street. Maybe that first parking spot should be listed as no parking.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ~Negotiations for Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property
- ~Personnel issues
- ~Nome Eskimo Community request for PILOT

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to enter into executive session. The Council recessed from regular meeting at 8:15 P.M.

The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 8:40 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel that the meeting be adjourned.

Hearing no objections the Nome City Council adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

SIGNED AND DATED the 26th day of March, 2007



DENISE MICHELIS, Mayor

ATTEST:



LESLIE M. WESSEL, City Clerk/Treasurer