

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
December 10, 2007**

The Special Meeting of the Nome City 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 David, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, Randy Pomeranz

Members Absent:

Also Present: Building Inspector, Pat Hahn, Chief of Police, Paul Burke; City Clerk, Sandy Babcock; Deputy Clerk, Camille Ten Eyek, Director of Parks & Recreation, Chip Leeper, City Attorney, Brooks Chandler (telephonically),

In the audience: Paul Korchin, KNOM; Sandra Medearis, Katherine Williams, (telephonically), Rodney Ahwinona, Gene Oxerok, Jonathan Ahwinona, Kara Mills, and about 15+ citizens in the audience for the following meeting.

CITIZENS GRIEVANCES AND REQUESTS:

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-07-12-03 A Resolution Declaring Certain Properties in the City of Nome a Fire Hazard, Health Hazard or Public Nuisance and Authorizing Demolition
~Public Hearing

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-07-12-03.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing the Council recessed at 7:32 P.M.

Discussion

Building Inspector Pat Hahn explained that the residence for abatement is Eloise and Carl Ahwinona's residence. Carl Ahwinona is deceased and Eloise is no longer able to care for herself and is at Quyanna Care at the Norton Sound Hospital and the house has gone to the children. The house is a health issue for the City. The house is sound but there are some social issues as mentioned in the Chief of Police report.

With a request from the audience, Mayor Michels read aloud the Police report.

Building Inspector Hahn explained that the health issues with the house have been a chronic issue.

Chief of Police Paul Burke stated that he provided to the Council a list of the many calls the police have responded to at this residence. He stated that this house is well known to many out of town visitors as a place to hang out and get alcohol. He continued that it is such a health hazard that he has told his Officers that they are not to enter this residence for any reason with the exception of being fully suited and having breathing apparatus on to protect their health, skin and clothing.

C. Knodel stated that the resolution requires a date for abatement and she would like the abatement to be before spring thaw and she suggested the date of April 1, 2008.

Building Inspector Hahn explained there is currently not a legal representative for Eloise and her affairs but her son Rodney has some legal authority at the hospital and he is here tonight.

Rodney Ahwinona stated he is the eldest son and his mother Eloise asked him to take care of the house. He stated that this past winter the pipes froze and there was no running water but they have running water now. He said he asked his family to clean up the house with Clorox. When he was working last summer and when he was out of town other people in the house allowed drunks to stay there but he doesn't. He has called the police many times to take them to the hospital or 12 hour hold but many times the police have said they would be better at there house.

Mayor Michels asked if they could continue to work on cleaning it.

Rodney Ahwinona stated he is not at the house right now because he is at the Seaside Halfway House and he gets out at the end of this month. He stated he applied for housing improvement with Nome Eskimo Community but hasn't had time to get all the paperwork finished due to his mother's sickness since she was out of town until recently. He stated he would like to try and improve the living conditions at the house.

Mayor Michels stated that with the abatement date set at April 1, 2008 the Council would be giving them that much time to do whatever it takes to get the house cleaned up on the inside.

Gene Oxerok stated that this property was one of the first in Bering View and one of the first to welcome travelers from all over the Seward Peninsula. He stated that he asked for an extension from the City before they shut off the water and power. He was waiting for his dividend check but the City shut it off anyway and the pipes froze. He stated that all utilities have been paid now.

Katherine Williams (telephonically) stated she is the daughter of Eloise and Carl Ahwinona and she lives in Tacoma, Washington. In July 2007 she was at the house and the toilet and water were working. She stated that the pictures they are showing were taken on March 2007 almost a year ago and she asked if there were recent pictures taken.

Chief Burke responded that there are also included in the packets a set of pictures taken October 2007.

Katherine Williams stated that she was in town again one week ago and the facilities were working and no feces or urine anywhere. She asked if the Fire and Police Chief have done another inspection since the house has been working and is it more than human waste and urine you are looking for.

Building Inspector Hahn stated that the report was whenever the police were in there last and they can't inspect it since it is a private residence. They only go in there when there is a call.

Chief Burke responded that at the time the Officers went in to the structure, probably the middle of October, there was fecal material on the floor and on the walls. He stated they did not go through the entire building because of the condition it was in. There was an issue involving the Office of Children Services and one of the reasons the Officers went in was because there was a child inside the residence. He stated that the conditions inside may change in terms of the functioning of some of the facilities but at the time they were in there they saw bare and exposed wires that were charged and a honey bucket was still there. They have not checked last week.

Katherine Williams asked if they were looking to condemn the house because of the people drinking in it and she asked what the fire hazard was about. Mayor Michels responded that the issue was the health hazards and the exposed electrical wires. Ms. Williams stated that there are no social services for homeless people. If this home is taken away from this family which has lived there since 1970 there is no place for them to live. The house that is there is better than a tent and better than abandoned vehicles which you hear are all going to be gone also. She stated her Mom, brothers and herself have lived there many years and this is a home that the City wants to take away from them. She stated her Mom is not in good condition right now and has dementia and cannot make these decisions right now. She stated that when her Mom did not have dementia she and her Mom did a will that gave the house to the boys; Rodney, Carl and Jonathan so they need to take care of it. She stated she does not want this house taken away from her brothers.

Mayor Michels stated that the Council is asking that the items that were addressed are fixed by April 1, 2008. She asked if Ms. Williams understood this. Ms. Williams responded okay.

Building Inspector Hahn read aloud the City law, Section 5.30.020 under abatement that states the owners may request a rehearing at anytime and show that the deficiencies have been remedied and the City Council may rescind its order.

Mayor Michels asked Ms. Williams if she heard Mr. Hahn's statement and then she repeated it for her and explained again that there is an option for a rehearing at anytime if the deficiencies are cleaned up.

The Council reconvened at 7:52 P.M.

A motion was made by C. Pomeranz and seconded by C. Larson to approve R-07-12-03.

Discussion

C. Knodel stated they will need to put a date in the resolution for abatement and she suggested it be by April 1, 2008 before spring thaw.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. David to amend R-07-12-03 and insert April 1, 2008 as the date of abatement.

At the roll call on the amendment;

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

At the roll call to the main motion;

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

Nays:

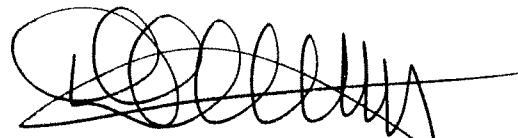
The motion CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections the Nome City Council adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

SIGNED AND DATED the 14th day of January 2008.



DENISE MICHELS, Mayor

ATTEST:



SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer