

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 28, 2008**

The Regular 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, Mary David, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, Randy Pomeranz
Members Absent: Jerald Brown
Also Present: City Clerk, Sandy Babcock;
In the audience: Jacob Buckenmeyer, KNOM; Diana Handeland, GCI; John Handeland, Utility Manager; Randy Romenesko, Laurie McNicholas, Sue Greenly, Richard Beneville, Mitch Erickson, Lance Johnson

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. June 23, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. July 1, 2008 Special Meeting Minutes
- C. July 14, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

At the roll call:

Ayes: David, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Michels stated that the communications are available in their packets, the City Clerks office and on the website. She reported that the communication from Sitnasuak Native Corporation stated that they have approved 100% funding for the two Eskimo boy's project and they would like to work with the City on the actual placement of the statue. She asked who should be involved with this planning. It was determined that this request would be forwarded to the Museum & Library Commission, Cussy Kauer and the City Manager.

CITIZENS REQUESTS AND GRIEVANCES

Lance Johnson, Nome Community Center, thanked the Council for including the Food Bank in the City budget this year and he stated that they really appreciate it. He feels like it is more important for them to be able to put money into food purchases as opposed to some of the other operational costs. He reported that they are really pushing the food bank this year with a new drop box on the front porch and some new signs.

C. Andersen asked where the Food Bank was located and if they accepted outdated food. Mr. Johnson stated the address is 312 Bering Street and it is the building that used to be the Java Hut,

across from Anvil City Park. He stated that they can accept some outdated foods and in some categories they cannot because of State regulations.

C. Andersen asked how many people come to the food bank. Mr. Johnson stated that he didn't have the figures for the year but in April there were 158 folks and that was a slow time. He stated that in May JROTC brought in 900 foods items alone plus they had their other donations and right now the shelves are about bare again. He stated that they distribute locally and the State Food Bank of Alaska works with the surrounding Villages. He reported that the \$10,000 from the City will help pay the operations of the building like utilities and heat and then any money they get they can purchase food. He stated that the Food Bank hours are Tuesday and Thursday 5:30 – 7:00 P.M. but they will open up other times if needed. When asked who owns the building he responded it is Global Ministries affiliated with the Women's Division of the Methodist Church.

Rick Luthi, Superintendent of Nome Public Schools, reported that summer maintenance work is going on right now; currently working on the pool and starting tomorrow they will be re-waxing the gym floor. He thanked Councilman Knodel and Ms. Brennan for meeting with him last week discussing the Building D & E roof remodel and repair. He stated he learned a lot from the meeting and they have some ground work that they need to continue to look at such as what the plans will be for the building. He stated that one of the things they have heard loud and clear is that if they are going to move forward with this they need to explore options to help generate revenue by the use of that building. He stated that he has started to set up meetings with the Alaska Gold Company, the Hospital, Utilities and other folks in town just to see what the needs might be in the community for office space or housing. He stated that he hopes to talk with Mr. Romenesko about the engineering side of the building and what needs to be done. He stated that he will continue to explore the options for the building so he can present a general plan to the Council. He reported that in a few weeks they will have staff in-service and in a few weeks after that there will be kids in the building.

C. Andersen asked about the contract negotiations that are coming up and requested a schedule of their plans. Mr. Luthi stated he would have it the next time he comes before them.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-08-07-03 An Ordinance Adopting Revised Subdivision Regulations for the City of Nome

~Second Reading, Public Hearing and Final Passage

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk for the second reading of O-08-07-03.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing the Council recessed at 7:40 P.M. Hearing no public comment the Council reconvened at 7:40 P.M.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Larson to approve O-08-07-03.

Discussion

C. Knodel stated that they did a great job on the subdivision regulations and she has one question on page 3 under section 70.016 Enforcement (d). She suggested that the City Council stay out of the loop here and if construction and use of the land is in violation of these regulations she thinks it would be cumbersome that the City Manager would have to come to the Council to ask permission to go to

the attorney to act on behalf of the City. She suggested they strike "notify the City Council and the City Council shall" section so that the City Manager can notify the City Attorney.

Mr. Romenesko stated he has been working with the Planning Commission on this and he pointed out that under (f) in this same section it states that written orders of the City Manager may be appealed to the Board of Adjustment and the City Council is the Board of Adjustment. He feels that Councilman Knodels' comments are appropriate because if someone wanted to appeal the decision of the City Manager they would still have the ability to come to the Council.

A motion was made C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to amend O-08-07-03 on page 3 of the Subdivision Regulations under 70.016 Enforcement (d) by striking "notify the City Council and the City Council shall".

At the roll call on the amendment:

Ayes: Andersen, David, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

At the roll call on the main motion:

Ayes: David, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-08-07-11 A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding for NACTEC Remodel II Project Between the City of Nome ("City"), the Nome City School District ("District"), the Bering Strait School District ("BSSD"), and the Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center ("NACTEC")

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to approve R-08-07-11.

Discussion

Mayor Michels stated that Councilman Pomeranz has a Conflict of Interest due to he will be the job superintendent.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Andersen, David

Nays:

Abstain: Pomeranz

The motion CARRIED.

- B. R-08-07-12 A Resolution Accepting a State of Alaska Legislative Grant of \$2,500,000 for Nome Power Plant Construction Completion and Designating Nome Joint Utility System a Component Unit of the City of Nome, to Receive, Accept and Administer the Grant on Behalf of the City of Nome

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-08-07-12.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, David, Knodel

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

- C. O-08-07-04 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 17.30 of the Nome Code of Ordinances to Increase the Hotel/Motel Room Tax from Four Percent (4%) to Six Percent (6%)
~First Reading

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read O-08-07-04.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to pass O-08-07-04 on to second reading, public hearing and final passage

At the roll call:

Ayes: Pomeranz, Andersen, David, Knodel, Larson

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- D. Nome Chamber of Commerce Proposal re. Visitor Services (handed out at the meeting)

Mayor Michels stated that there were Chamber of Commerce representatives here in the audience and she asked if the Council had any questions.

C. Andersen asked about the timeline and if they accept this when would the Chamber like to start. Chamber President, Sue Greenly stated that based on previous discussions her understanding was it would be around October 1, 2008. C. Andersen stated that speaking from the stand point as the Acting City Manager there are budget items and decisions that need to be made and some of it is time sensitive so somebody has to make a decision, if we are going to keep it open, what we are going to do for two months if the proposal is accepted.

C. Pomeranz asked if these are things the Chamber would use. C. Andersen stated yes, some of them are.

C. Knodel stated that if they accept it the Chamber can work with the Visitors Center Director and decide which ads and things they want to keep.

Mayor Michels stated that she would expect that the Director would provide a transition memo to the Chamber on the items and issues that are outstanding and need coordination.

C. Andersen stated to Mitch Erickson that he noticed their budget was going up a bit since they last talked. Mr. Erickson stated that it is still at \$130,000.

C. Andersen asked if they should vote on the proposal.

C. Larson asked what kind of mechanism they were talking about. He asked if they were talking about a contract where they pay out monthly and these are the services that are going to be provided rather than just the proposal. He stated he would feel more comfortable if they had a game plan.

Mayor Michels asked if the Council has talked with the City Attorney on this. Council Andersen suggested they wait until City Manager Hallgren returns and direct him to negotiate something with the Chamber.

C. Larson stated that if they are looking for a start date of October 1, they need to try and get the contract done in the next 30 days or so.

C. Andersen stated that to be fair to the Director they need to give her notice with a specific date. He stated that he would talk with her and ask her for a memo or transition report.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

Utility Manager John Handeland reported the following:

- Summer maintenance activities are progressing well.
- They have been contacted to assist with the placement of the poles for the fence at the dump, next week.
- They will be closing their fuel bond this week. Wells Fargo got their funding approval through.
- Utility Board meets tomorrow, Tuesday.
- If anyone wants to sign up for automatic payment by credit card for their utility bills he has authorization forms available. Walk up payment by credit card is still pending.

C. Andersen stated that in their Utility minutes he read that they had estimated around 700 people would sign up. Utility Manager Handeland stated that this was an estimate of who might have the ability to do so. He stated that they are also doing a test right now on what's called budget billing where over a twelve month period your bill is leveled out a flat rate so folks don't see the spikes of the winter months. They need to do evaluations on who is eligible but it is only a test at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

No Report - City Manager, Pete Hallgren is out of town.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

Councilman David thanked Sitnasauk Native Corporation for their donation of contributing to NNYLO and the two Eskimo boy's statue project.

Councilman Knodel thanked the Planning Commission and Randy Romenesko on all their hard work on the Subdivision Regulations. She reported that Norton Sound Health Corporation is meeting this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and today they passed a resolution allowing their CEO to begin negotiations with IHS for construction of the hospital. Norton Sound Hospital would maintain some management, design and oversight of the project. They also are encouraging alternative energy in the building. She stated that they were told today that Senator Murkowski put a rider on a bill to start the funding process.

C. Larson asked if there was a timeline yet. She responded that they did not have one yet unless the Bill goes through, but once they get it, it will be about five years from that. She stated that on Wed. at 3:00 P.M. there is an Open House for the Hostel and at 4:00 P.M. is the ground breaking and everyone if invited.

Councilman Larson had no comments.

Councilman Pomeranz had no comments.

Councilman Andersen stated that the Union contracts are coming up towards the end of the year so he will have the City Manager get those to them. He stated the skate park equipment will be ordered

today or tomorrow. He reported that out of the \$19,200 needed for the paving, so far they have about \$13,000 and they are hoping for a break from the paving company but if not he will be asking the Council for about \$4,000 or \$5,000 to finish it.

C. Knodel reminded him that someone cut out all the paving in the budget this year. Big laugh.

Councilman Andersen continued and cautioned everyone that the bypass road is going to have to be maintained once these big trucks start using it and it could be expensive. He reminded them that Congressman Don Young had mentioned that re-districting would take place in 2010 meaning we will be lumped together with a bunch of other people so we have about two years to get anything we want because after that happens our district is going to be really diluted, that's when the census comes up. He ended by asking if they were aiming for October 1st on the Visitors Center and the Council agreed.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Michels reported the following:


- She is working with the Utility Manager and AkDOT on the bypass road and "K" street project and she stated that they are just doing the environmental on "K" street now so it doesn't look like they will get to either this year.
- There's an energy summit with AVEC going on right now and she thanked Utility Manager Handeland for attending.
- She has been working with the DOTPF on a study for a road to Nome.
- Today she and Randy Romenesko met with the Corps Engineer folks and Lloyd Pike, Deputy Chief Counsel, looking at drafting language for the litigation.
- Councilman Knodel handed her some information and drawings from Leon Broadway suggesting naming Middle Beach and she will pass it on to the Museum and Library Commission and City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT

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


Hearing no objections the Nome City Council adjourned at 8:06PM.

SIGNED AND DATED the 11th day of August 2008.



STAN ANDERSEN, Presiding Councilman

ATTEST:



SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer