

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 25, 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, Jerald Brown, Mary David, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, Randy Pomeranz

Members Absent:

Also Present: City Manager, Pete Hallgren; City Clerk, Sandy Babcock; Chief of Police, Paul Burke;

In the audience: Rick Luthi, Diana Handeland, GCI camera operator; Derrick Leedy, Paul Korchin, KNOM; John Handeland, Utility Manager; Norm Stiles, Jeremy Master, Jon R. Wehde,

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Paul Korchin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 11, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Brown to approve the minutes..

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Michels reported that the various communications were available in their packets, online and at the Clerks office and asked if there were any questions.

CITIZENS REQUESTS AND GRIEVANCES

Norm Stiles stated he had a shock this afternoon when the title report came back on his lot that he has owned for 28 years and he stated that there is a reverter and reversionary interest by the City of Nome on it and it has never been taken off. He stated that he remembers when he bought the lot there was a condition that within three years, he thinks, a house had to be built on it. He stated that he has been paying taxes all these years and he has a buyer for his lot and he is requesting the City remove the reverter so he can sell it. He wondered why the city has not removed all of them.

Mayor Michels asked the City Manager to look into the properties with the reverters for a future agenda.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-08-08-05 A Resolution to Accept the Proposal for the Nome Recreation Center Master Plan from NorthWind Architects, LLC and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the Architects for the Services

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to approve R-08-08-05.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

- B. Report on Recommended Abatement of Nuisances: RE: Davis residence at 210 W. 5th Ave. & Kakik residence at 610 W. 4th Ave.

Chief Burke stated that he was here to give an update to these two properties. He reported that there has been no change to the Kakik residence and it has been sealed up since the last report. He stated it might even be worse now since it is sealed up and there are certainly enough health concerns to move forward with this abatement process.

Chief Burke continued that officers have been over to the Davis house a number of times; on June 19, June 25, July 02, and early August there was a call for service. He stated that there has been some cleaning up on the outside but the inside is as bad or worse. The inside still has food and at least eight buckets of fecal material in the rooms. He stated that he has talked with Paula Davis and she stated she is concerned about the status of the place and she is trying to work with their Mother but she stated there doesn't seem to be any changes that she can see.

- C. Knodel asked why the City has not abated both of these. City Manager Hallgren stated that this is the beginning of the process and tonight if they find cause to move the process along they should set a public hearing date, according to our ordinances.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to set an abatement public hearing date for the next meeting at 7:30 P.M. September 22, 2008.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

C. Knodel reported to Chief Burke that she has heard concerns from Nancy McGuire about the smell coming out of the burned out house that sits behind her house, the Jimmy James house. She stated that the back end of the house is open also. Chief Burke confirmed that they were talking about the Buffas house on 2nd Ave. City Manager Hallgren reported that Ms. McGuire talked with him a few weeks ago and reported that children were getting into the back. He stated that he talked with building inspector Pat Hahn and he is working with the owner to voluntarily abate it. City Manager Hallgren stated that he received a call today about the noxious odors coming out and this is the first time he has heard about this. He asked that the Chief of Police check it out.

C. Andersen asked if these two abatement properties were on the foreclosure list. City Clerk Babcock stated that they paid their back taxes and were off the list.

C. Knodel requested that a new abatement list be made when Pat Hahn gets back in town because there are a number of properties in town that are abandoned, open and hazards. She stated that this stuff has been here for years and it is time to clean it up. She stated no more "good guy stuff" and if the owners aren't willing then the City can abate it.

City Manager Hallgren concurred.

C. R-08-08-06 A Resolution of the City of Nome, Alaska, Disposing of its Right of Reverter and Reversionary Interest in Lots 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A, Block 74A.

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

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

City Manager Hallgren stated that there are many lots with this right of reverter to the City and he asked the Council if they would like to continue handling them on a case by case basis or would they want the Clerks office to look into the possibility of removing all of those clauses.

Mayor Michels requested that they find out how many are still out there and let the Council know what they find.

City Manager Hallgren stated that they could come up with an approximate list rather quickly but a totally accurate list would take more effort. He stated that the Clerks office will check it out and report back.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

Utility Manager John Handeland stated that operations are normal and they continue to work with the various granting agencies in an attempt to get some of their grants closed out and funds coming back. He stated that he did not have anything else to report but he would like to request an executive session with the Council tonight to discuss some property and financial matters.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hallgren stated that his written report was included in the packet and he has handed out a report tonight from Randy Romenesko regarding capital projects updates. He mentioned the following:

- They have started moving on abatement with the public hearing date set tonight.
- The landfill record deficiencies have been corrected and they are not going to be hit with any formal notice of violation.
- The Visitors Center – he has been in contact with the Chamber and they are trying to set a meeting up for Wednesday to move forward on the project.

- The Public Works/Port Director position job description should be available at the next meeting.
- The Police Chief has noted that rental housing availability has become extremely difficult for his personnel and the increased rental costs are impacting his staffing and recruiting.
- The City completed the site preparation for the paving of the skate park. He is told the paving is set for the end of the season.
- They are in the beginning discussions with NSHC on renewal of the Medivac ambulance service agreement.
- Tomorrow morning some folks from the 2010 U.S. Census will be arriving and he will be showing them around town and there will be an informational work session at 7:00 P.M.

C. Andersen stated that he has mentioned this before, and in light of Chief Burke's comments about difficulty with recruiting, he feels the City should pick up additional rentals to have on hand.

City Manager Hallgren stated that he will be happy to look around but the market is very tight right now. He mentioned that one of the police officers has to move because the rental was sold.

C. Andersen asked if there were any rentals at the school district building. Superintendent Luthi explained that they could possibly accommodate a single officer in a communal living situation. C. Andersen begged to hear more. Mr. Luthi stated that the old Nactec area, in the back, has been converted to three apartments but they have to share the bathroom and kitchen. C. Andersen stated he was thinking about the school's apartment building. Mr. Luthi stated that this was full and overflowing but they do have one of these apartments in the old Nactec space still available, they call it the "transition house" if a single officer was interested. He stated that they have helped out some of their teachers with this new space and they are generating some revenue. He stated that questions of costs should be addressed with the school business manager, Ms. Jenny Martens.

C. Knodel asked the City Manager for assistance with his staff in finding the Officer a new place. City Manager Hallgren responded that he had heard this morning from Chief Burke that they may have found a place to live, but he is happy to try and help.

C. Andersen added that maybe he could continue on to see if there is something else that comes up.

C. Pomeranz asked if C. Andersen was wanting the city to secure a couple of apartments. C. Andersen replied that they should secure at least one more until they find a permanent City Manager which, he added, would probably live in the existing city apartment anyway.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

Councilman Pomeranz invited everyone to the open house of the NACTEC building on September 4th at 11:00 A.M.

Councilman Andersen had no comments.

Councilman Brown had no comments.

Councilman David had no comments.

Councilman Knodel had no comments.

Councilman Larson asked what the status is of the previously abated properties. He asked if they will be taken down and he requested the building supervisor give them a report on those at the next meeting. He stated that if the city crews do not have time to abate them then maybe they should consider a bid to take down the properties that were previously condemned.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Michels stated that her report is included in the packet and she highlighted the following.

They have been busy meeting with the Corps of Engineers and folks from DC have visited. She met with Coast Guard Commandant Thad Allen and Admiral Brooks and other Coast Guard folks.

Mayor Michels announced that there were two vacancies on the Planning Commission and she reported that she would like to appoint Charlie Weiss and Jerald Brown.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Knodel to appoint Charlie Weiss and Jerald Brown to the Planning Commission.

Discussion

C. Andersen asked C. Brown if it was a problem to be on both the Planning Commission and the Council. C. Brown responded that he didn't have problems with both and he would be willing to continue.

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

The motion CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to enter into executive session to discuss finances and property concerns with the Utility Manager. The Council recessed from regular meeting at 7:53 P.M.

The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 8:27 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 8:27 PM.

SIGNED AND DATED the 8th day of September, 2008.



STAN ANDERSEN, Presiding Councilman

ATTEST:



SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer