

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2008**

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, Jerald Brown, Mary David, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, Randy Pomeranz

Members Absent:

Also Present: City Manager, Pete Hallgren; Deputy City Clerk, Camille Ten Eyck;

In the audience: Rick Luthi, Diana Handeland, GCI camera operator; Laurie McNicholas, John Handeland, Jon F Wehde, Nancy Billingsley, Colleen Johnson, and Colleen Johnson's Charter School Class

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 25, 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:

Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Presiding Councilman Andersen stated that there are a couple of communications in their packets and asked for comments.

C. Andersen: I just would like to congratulate the Museum Commission for picking an excellent site for the new museum.

CITIZENS REQUESTS AND GRIEVANCES

Colleen Johnson: I have given my class for extra credit an option to come and watch a city council meeting for an hour. Tomorrow we are having a simulation of a city council meeting in our class.

Rick Luthi: For the record my name is Rich Luthi and I am superintendent of Nome Public Schools. I just wanted to keep you updated on things of interest to you.

- ❖ School Started Well – Smooth Transition
- ❖ Nactec Opening- We invite the whole community to come it.

- ❖ Mr. Wehde is preparing our district report card ready – will be shared with the school board at their meeting September 3rd. We will then make it available.
- ❖ Roof Repair – We will have a report in the next week on the structural integrity of the building and the roof.
- ❖ Since we plan on attending council meetings at least once a month, we would like some feedback as to what information you would like us to be reporting to you.
- ❖ We have had an unexpected decrease in students this year. Our projection was 731 students. We currently have enrolled 671 students. We are down 60 students. Where did they go? There is not just one answer to that. As that goes along we will keep you apprised and abreast. Our board will be trying to grapple with this as well.

C. Larson: What is the split between the high school and the elementary pertaining to the 60 students?

Rick Luthi: I did not bring that with me. That number is out of projections. The majority of the decrease out of the projection is out of the 7th through 12th grades. I can get the exact numbers to you.

C. Andersen: This is obviously going to affect your budget. Isn't it \$5000 per child?

Rick Luthi: Yes it is going to affect the budget.

C. Andersen: We would be very curious how you are going to work that.

Rick Luthi: I am pretty curious too!

C. Andersen: We appreciate you coming monthly and keeping us informed.

Rick Luthi: Not to be flippant with your question, however; we are looking at many things. Quite honestly we are looking at restructuring within our district as far as funding. We will not move fast and make poor decision that may impact students, but we can not spend money we do not have.

C. Anderson: Well we are the only ones with money if you need more money. If you are going to ask please ask in a timely matter would be better than waiting until the end.

Rick Luthi: Thank you for that. We will keep you informed.

Mitch Erickson: I should have taken this to the utility board, but since John is here I will ask the question here. Several people have asked me about the flickering of the lights. Many people have had problems with their appliances. Wanted to make sure we are following up on this. Many of the new expensive light bulbs are burning out and people are going back to the less expensive ones.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-08-09-01 A Resolution Setting the Compensation of the Election Board and Clerks for the 2008 City of Nome Municipal Election

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-08-09-01.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

B. Facility Reservation Fee/Waiver – Old St. Joe's
~Nome Regulators, Birthday Party for Alaska, October 18, 2008

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Larson to approve the Facility Fee/Waiver – Old St. Joe's for the Nome Regulators, Birthday Party for Alaska, October 18, 2008

Discussion:

C. Knodel: Since they are collecting a fee of \$100.00 a couple, I would like to make a suggestion that if there are any funds left above and beyond the cost of putting this on that they repay the city for the rental fee. It does not say where the rest of the money will go. If they make more than what they need they should pay the fee.

C. Andersen: You can't get too many people in there with entertainment and the only running water is in the bathrooms. It would be more appropriate at the Mini.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

John Handeland:

- ↓ First, I would like to address Mr. Erickson's issue on flickering. We have not noticed anything happening in the last month or two except for Sunday when we had little blip and that can be resolved by not allowing people to drive dump trucks with the beds up which come in contact with overhead power lines. There have been some issues that occurred previously. If people are continuing to see this they should contact the utility office. We also will be putting in some capacitor banks on the Rock Creek line which should resolve some of the issues.
- ↓ Next week will be the Rural Energy Conference in Girdwood. I will be attending that with Chairman West. We will be looking at various alternatives to energy issues throughout the state. This is timely because the Alaska Energy Authority just released request for applications for up to 100 million dollars in grants for renewable energy projects. The Utility does intend to put in a couple of applications. One for a power line that would qualify for the new Banner Wind Project as well as an application for some additional wind generators.

- ↓ The week after the energy conference is FEMA Sponsored Training which I will be attending. There is 100 million dollar Federal Competitive Grant program for pre disaster mitigation which we will be putting in an application for power lines under the river.
- ↓ Clock issue is still not resolved. It still is on the list of outstanding warranty claims. We will be having an engineer back up here to resolve that. There are no other warranty issues. The warranty was completed satisfactorily and has expired on its own. Despite the comments that the warranty was voided. That is not the case.
- ↓ Finally, The Regulatory Commission of Alaska just adopted an order which they declined to adopt Federal metering standards, fuel diversity and fossil generation diversity efficiency standards.

C. Larson: Is Rock Creek on line?

John Handeland: They are to a small degree. We are hoping to hear from them tomorrow that they are ready to go wide open.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hallgren stated he provided a written report and he mentioned the following:

- ↓ In my written report under abatement I mentioned Pat Hahn would be here, but instead I asked him to give a written break down on the properties ordered abated last November. The abatement order gave until mid May. Of those 11 parcels, 5 have been abated and 6 have not. Of the six we are scheduled to do the abatement ourselves. Why have we not gotten the abatement done, I am told that the equipment we need to rent is being used by other projects. As soon as it becomes available they will proceed. There are two or three with minor complications. One we need to get the adjacent property owners permission and the other is a metal construction and will have to hire a contractor to cut that down. Third one will be abated by Bering Straits Housing when they have the equipment. We brought two before you which we will have the hearing on at the next meeting. I am told there are other properties and I have asked the building inspector to look into adding them to our list.
- ↓ City Properties are moving along.
- ↓ Visitors Center-The next meeting date is tomorrow at 2:00 P.M. I am told they are anxious to move ahead and there appears to be no major problems to our response as of August 15th. We are not going to meet the target date of October 1st for the takeover, but we will try to meet the takeover date of October 15th with additional expenses.
- ↓ Public Works Port Director Position is still being worked on. It is funded in the budget. The director will take over three departments' public works, ports, and maintenance.
- ↓ Front Street Director Position even though it was funded, I recommend we not look at it this year. If the chamber takes over the Visitors Center functions, then one of the three legs of the Front Street position is gone. At this time, I recommend keeping the library and museum with their directors. Our librarian is retiring October 31st. We will be short of people and I ask your permission to advertise that position.

C. Andersen: I was under the impression when we hired him as a librarian which is more costly than a library director.

City Manager: The position is listed as Library Director which is listed in the pay scale of 15 with all other directors. I don't know if we need a librarian or a librarian director.

C. Andersen: I have no problem with you advertising the position. Before we hire I would like to have a healthy discussion on how we will be running the library.

City Manager: Lastly, Deed Reverter Clauses. The question for the council is shall we delete the reverter clause from all the 1980s City Deeds all at once or continue to consider each property when it arises? Without a zoning ordinance, removal of the reverters will allow the parcel to be utilized by the owners for any lawful use. If I were to make a recommendation, it would be to remove the reverter so as to place these parcels on an equal footing with the rest of the Nome parcels. My feeling is that zoning is best accomplished by zoning, not reverters.

C. Larson: Why don't we get the zoning code enacted and then remove the reverter. Can we get it scheduled?

City Manager: We will schedule the zoning ordinance at next meeting.

C. Knodel: I would like to ask if our public works crew can get these 5 buildings abated this year. If not, let's put it out to bid and get it done.

City Manager: Pat Hahn believes it can be done this year. I have not talked to our public works folks directly. I have no problem talking to our folks to make sure it is done. If the Council wishes, I could contract it out. What I was told is the equipment is not available at this time.

C. Knodel: If you would check on that I would appreciate it. Also, I would like to know about the new abatement list.

C. Andersen: Depending on your meeting with the chamber tomorrow, if they don't show up again it obviously will cost us more money. I would like RFP put out to see if anyone else would be interested.

City Manager: I would be happy to do that.

C. Andersen: This would be a good time to address the recommendations of the Museum and Library Commission.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Larson to approve a request from the Museum and Library Commission to hire Terry Hyer of ECI/Hyer Inc. with funds from a \$50,000 state grant to provide a conceptual design for a new museum.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

Councilman Brown: had no comments.

Councilman David: nice to see all the students here tonight. I hope you come again. I hope you have a wonderful school year.

Councilman Knodel: I have had a request from someone about recycling computer components. Perhaps our port people could look into if we can back haul computers and if there is a place in

Seattle. I have another question which is basically for our Police Chief. I have been up at all time during the night because we have had a lot of trouble around our property. People have told me they have had their cars and property vandalized. Kids are out after curfew. I would like to hear about the curfew problem.

Councilman Andersen Instead of waiting for the next two weeks maybe Chief of Police can let us know what they plan on doing now.

City Manager: I have looked a little bit into the recycling issue. As it is now I do not recommend it. Our landfill is allowed to take that kind of waste, however; it would be better to get it out of the stream. I have tasked the City Engineer with trying to find out what can be done. I will also be happy to talk to the Chief of Police and have him give you a report as to what is being done now.

Councilman Larson had no comments.

Councilman Pomeranz had no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Michels was out of town.

A. Mayor's report, September 3, 2008

B. Port Commission Applications & Appointment; Jimmy West Jr. & Charles Lean

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C.Larson approve the Port Commission Appointments of Jimmy West Jr. and Charlie Lean.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

C. Trip report for Summer AML in Wrangell

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

~Financial Matter – Sales Tax, Elite Line Services

~ Manager Search & other Personnel Matters

A motion was made by C.Larson and seconded by C. Andersen to enter into executive session. The Council recessed from the regular meeting at 8:14 P.M.

The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 8:54 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

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

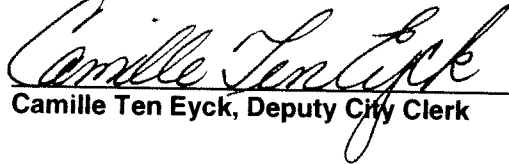
Hearing no objections the Nome City Council adjourned at 8:54 PM.

SIGNED AND DATED the 22nd day of September 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Michels", written over a horizontal line.

DENISE MICHELS, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Camille Ten Eyck", written over a horizontal line.

Camille Ten Eyck, Deputy City Clerk