

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
September 12, 2008**

The Special Meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 12:00 P.M. NOON 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, and Mary Knodel (Telephonically), Randy Pomeranz, Jon Larson

Members Absent:

Also Present: City Manager, Pete Hallgren; Deputy City Clerk, Camille Ten Eyck; Police Chief, Paul Burke

In the audience: Laurie McNichols, Dr. Derrick Leedy, Richard Beneville, and Sue Greenly

CITIZENS GRIEVANCES AND REQUESTS:

Sue Greenly: I am here representing the Nome Chambers and I have just a brief statement regarding having the council support the Nome Chamber of Commerce in terms of overseeing the Nome Visitor Center. As an organization, we have the determination, the drive, the expertise, and passion to make this venture succeed. Recently, the chamber has received inquiries about Nome conferences in 2010 & 2011. We are going to partnership with the ARTA council (Development of Alaska Rural Tourism). Our chamber members are on state as well as local boards. Since we are involved in the community, we are aware of activities in the community. We are committed to promoting Nome as a traveler's destination. What we need is the trust of the Council to do what we do best.

City Manager: In a few minutes we are going to go into Executive Session to do some negotiating and I asked a question of the chamber. I believe I heard from Mitch Erickson favorable on that question.

Richard Beneville: Is this the negotiation between the two years and the five years? I think that was a miscommunication on his part. Sue and I have gotten together with the other board members and we are asking the Council the full \$130,000 for all five years. Sue alluded as to why. It is a matter of being able to do what we need to do. So much of these things have a lead time. The bid she was talking about was for 2010, 140 people for a convention. There are others as well. We are still working to position ourselves to work with the cruise ship industry which has grown somewhat. We need a lead time of 2 or 3 years. We are hoping the Council will support us and trust us for the full five years. The board would much prefer the full funding for the full five years.

Chief of Police: Thank you for allowing me to address you about curfew issues. The young people are now in their third week of school. Some issues have occurred since the change of the curfew times. My officers are fully aware of the curfew issues and we have done the following:

- Contacted Businesses open after 10:00 PM reminding them of the curfew time.
- One business the kids have been frequenting after 10:00 P.M. is Bonanza. The employees have been very cooperative to inform the kids to go home and not hang around the store.

- Officers have been instructed to actively enforce the curfew issue and site those who break curfew. Since many kids are back in town, we have seen a slight increase in vandalism.
- We can not enforce what goes on in the home. It is our responsibility to encourage these kids and their families for them to be home at a reasonable time.
- I am in the schools everyday and I follow up on the kids who broke curfew to see how they are doing in school.
- I am working with both the high school and the elementary school and actively pursuing the curfew issue.

C. Larson: What is your procedure when you find a child out after curfew?

Chief Burke: The only procedure is to site them and take them home. Sometimes the officer has to site them and immediately go on another call. Usually, the kids go home. We have not seen many at 2:00 in the morning. We usually see them at 11:00 at night. I did a review of the citations and they fall into that time frame. I have had a meeting with Nome Community Center and those who deal with Nome Youth Court. We want to hold these kids accountable. We will stay on top of it.

C. Larson: I think you should be making contact with their parents.

Chief Burke: Every opportunity we try to do that. There are some cases we have taken the child home and there is no parent home.

C. Larson: Well can you follow up with the parents later?

Chief Burke: Yes we can. We can cite the parents separately if they allow them to be unsupervised.

C. Larson: Do you have all the tools to do that? Are the ordinances in place sufficient for you to do what you need to do? Do you recommend any changes?

Chief Burke: Not at this time. Right now the first offenders go to Nome Youth Court. Time will tell how effective that is. The fines and fees are acceptable. We have been on KNOM and will be putting an article in the Nome Nugget addressing the curfew issue.

C. Larson: One more question. Did you finally get the tasers?

Chief Burke: I am the only one that does not wear one on a routine basis because I am always flying a desk. Every officer that is qualified to use one carries one on duty. Every officer who works the night shift carries one. We have never deployed one and have not had to deploy one. I appreciate your trust with those and the opportunity to have them. We will make it a point to notify the council when the first one is deployed.

C. Pomeranz: How is your search for new officers going?

Chief Burke: It has been slow. We have a lot of interest from the lower 48, but they want the city to pay their way here to see if they like it. We have some prospects. There are some local prospects we are trying to work on. We are still functional and I am a functioning policeman and can fill in if necessary. We screen out more than most jobs.

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

~Discussion on Financial Implications of Nome Chamber of Commerce
Visitor Center Proposal

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Pomeranz to enter into executive session. The Council recessed from regular meeting at 12:20P.M.

The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 1:00 P.M.

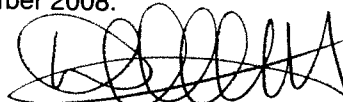
The Council returned from Executive Session and announced they accepted an application from Josie Bahnke for the position of City Manager and a time would be set up to interview her. The Council is continuing to invite and accept applications.

ADJOURNMENT

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

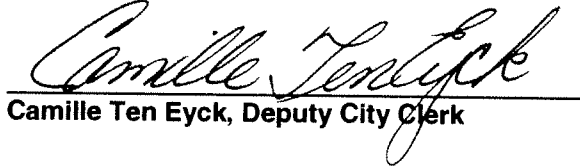
Hearing no objections the Nome City Council adjourned at 1:05 P.M.

SIGNED AND DATED the 22nd day of September 2008.



DENISE MICHELS, Mayor

ATTEST:


Camille Ten Eyck, Deputy City Clerk