

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
October 27, 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, Neal Foster, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, telephonically; Randy Pomeranz

Members Absent:

Also Present: City Manager, Josie Bahnke; City Clerk, Sandy Babcock;

In the audience: Larry Clark, Rick Luthi, Diana Handeland, GCI; Paul Korchin, KNOM; John Handeland, Utility Manager; Gary Grennon, Jon F. Wehde, Mary David, Josephine Bourdon, Keegan Bourdon

INVOCATION

No invocation was given.

City Clerk Sturgis-Babcock conducted the Oath of Office with newly elected Councilman Neal Foster.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were provided for approval.

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

Rick Luthi, Superintendent of Nome Public Schools, stated he wanted to take a few minutes and catch the Council up to speed. He stated that they are already a quarter of the way through the school year. The first nine weeks ended on Friday. Mr. Luthi reported on the following:

- ✓ The staff are working on developing a school improvement plan and district improvement plan targeting areas where they want to try and improve this year. They have targeted five areas along with a variety of other things they are going to do this year.
- ✓ The elementary is working to create an extended day program for the young kids in 2nd and 3rd grade. The staff believes that the earlier they can help kids get up to speed in grade level the greater chance they will have success in school. The staff has been going above and beyond to create an after school time from 2:00 – 2:45.
- ✓ He sat in on a meeting today with Ms. Sullivan and her staff at the high school and they are looking at creating a mentor program and a tutorial program from 3:00 – 4:00 for the kids. They believe that if kids have a connection with somebody in school they will be more likely to be there.

- ✓ They believe they need to use the technology of our schools better. There are wonderful resources in the technology to help kids get up to speed on some of their skills. Robin Johnson is leading this area.
- ✓ Exploring the possibility of summer school.
- ✓ Continue to work to get the community involved. They are not satisfied that they have done enough to invite the community into the schools. There was great community support and parent involvement at the Junior Class Carnival last Saturday night.
- ✓ He believes the staff in Nome cares more about their community than all the other places he has worked in Alaska.
- ✓ Friday was the end of the count period. Jenny Martens has been working with the state with the Oasis program to see if Nome qualified for the hold harmless money available. The last student count was 657 and he will keep the Council posted once they learn more. The School Board will take up the topic tomorrow.
- ✓ Emergency Closure packets were handed out to the Council. Mr. Wehde has been working to make sure the emergency procedures are in place.

C. Andersen asked about the timeframe and percentage of the State money from the low student count. Mr. Luthi responded that they cover about 50% of a drop of 5%. They do not cover the whole amount. He stated that the school can qualify for 25% the following year if the numbers stay down to the level they are currently at.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-08-10-01 An Ordinance of the City of Nome, Alaska Amending Ordinance No. O-85-1-1; Authorizing a Second Amendment to Tripartite Agreement Among the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Municipal Bond Bank and the City; and Authorizing the City to Issue its Port Revenue Refunding Bond 2008A, in the Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$5,000,000 to Refund the City's Port Revenue Bond, 1986 Series A; Fixing Certain Details of Such Bond; and Providing for Related Matters.

~First Reading

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read O-08-10-01.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to pass O-08-10-01 on to second reading, public hearing and final passage.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- B. O-08-10-02 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2008 General Fund Municipal budget
~First Reading
- C. O-08-10-03 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2008 Capital Projects Fund Budget
~First Reading
- D. O-08-10-04 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2008 Special Revenue Fund Budget
~First Reading
- E. O-08-10-05 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2008 Port of Nome Fund Budget
~First Reading
- F. O-08-10-06 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2008 Construction Capital Projects Fund Budget
First Reading

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read O-08-10-02, O-08-10-03, O-08-10-04, O-08-10-05 and O-08-10-06.

A motion was made by C. Pomeranz and seconded by C. Foster to pass O-08-10-02, O-10-08-03, O-10-08-04, O-10-08-05 and O-10-08-06 on to second reading, public hearing and final passage.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- G. R-08-10-03 A Resolution of Appreciation to Mary (Bourdon) David Recognizing Her Contributions to the Community and Years of Public Service to the Residents of Nome

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to approve R-08-10-03.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

- H. R-08-10-08 A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT & PF) and the City of Nome for Airport Services

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-08-10-08.

Discussion

City Manager Bahnke stated that she heard from Chief Burke at 4:00pm and he stated he had not heard back from the State DOT yet. She also reminded the Council that City Attorney Brooks recommended a one year contract.

C. Knodel stated she was ready to approve the contact as long as it is the one presented to them with the City Attorney Brooks mark-ups.

C. Andersen stated he would like to make an amendment to make the term of the contract one year.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Foster to amend R-08-10-08 changing the term of the MOA to one year with year to year renewals.

At the roll call on the amendment:

Ayes: Brown, Foster, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen
Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

At the roll call on the main motion:

Ayes: Foster, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown
Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

- I. R-08-10-09 A Resolution Certifying that the Municipality did Suffer Significant Effects During the Program Base Year from Fisheries Business Activities that Occurred Within the City of Nome Fisheries Management Area

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-08-10-09.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown, Foster
Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

- J. R-08-10-10 A Resolution Approving an Agreement with Appraisal Company of Alaska for Ad Valorem Tax Services

A motion was made by C. Pomeranz and seconded by C. Foster to approve R-08-10-10.

Discussion

C. Brown asked if we automatically renewed this contract or do we go out to bid sometimes. City Clerk stated this would be the third renewal. She stated it was renewed three years ago also without going out to bid. C. Andersen stated that it was his understanding that there were only two outfits in the State.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown, Foster, Knodel
Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels recessed the meeting so the Clerk could make copies of R-08-10-11. The Council recessed at 7:50 P.M..

The Council reconvened at 7:53 P.M. when Utility Manager Handeland arrived.

- K. R-08-10-11 A Resolution of the City of Nome, Alaska Providing for the Issuance of a Utility Revenue Anticipation Note of the City in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not of Exceed \$5,300,000 to Finance Purchases of Diesel Fuel for the Nome Joint Utility System, and Authorizing the Sale of the Note by Negotiation (Handout – Monday, *This resolution will be substantially similar to the last one enacted R-08-07-02*)

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to approve R-08-10-11.

Discussion

Utility Manager Handeland stated that this is the second note needed for additional fuel that they will be burning this year due to a new customer. He stated it is similar to the prior sale this year which was \$4.6 mil. This one is for \$5.3 and it will take them up to the cap that they can sell for bonds. He stated that the exact amount of the rate has not been set. They paid 5.2% this year and it is limited at 6% or less.

C. Andersen asked about the capacity. Utility Manager Handeland responded that they will be at capacity if the barge can come back. It was here Sunday and started unloading and due to weather they had to leave and they plan to come back on Thursday.

C. Andersen asked if they were looking at building another tank. Utility Manager Handeland stated they have looked at it and it is extremely expensive. They are using some space at Crowley at the present time to store \$1.5 mil gallons over the winter.

C. Knodel asked how come it was more expensive this time since fuel prices have been going down. Utility Manager Handeland stated it is a function of the day that you get it.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown, Foster, Knodel

Nays:

Abstain: Larson

The motion CARRIED.

- L. R-08-10-12 A Resolution Authorizing an Exception to Nome Code of Ordinances 3.05.040(b) for the Fifth Annual Nome North Open Dart Tournament from Friday, October 31, 2008 Through Monday, November 3, 2008

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-08-10-12.

Discussion

C. Knodel stated she would like to hear what the schedule is.

Larry Clark, manager of ANB Club and Trust stated that a copy of the schedule was enclosed with the letter and he explained that they will start at 8:am and play until 5:am.

C. Andersen asked how often they would be going until 5:00am. Mr. Clark explained that on Friday night they don't finish by 5:00am and they will ask the dart players to return at 8:00am. Even the tournament director will sleep at the bar and not go home. He stated that it is barely done by 10:00am Saturday morning.

C. Andersen asked how many participates do they normally have. He stated that the Iditarod event is the biggest at about 40 coming into Nome and 60 locals for a total of 100 players.

C. Foster asked how many years they have hosted this tournament. Mr. Clark stated that this is their 4th Nome North Open and there have been 21 Iditarod Dart Shoots.

C. Knodel asked if he feels it is necessary to serve alcohol from 3:00am until 5:00am and start again at 8:00am. Mr. Clark stated that they don't have to but it would be nice.

C. Brown asked if the place could stay open without serving alcohol. Mr. Clark responded that yes it could stay open.

C. Knodel clarified that the way this resolution is written only ANB would be allowed to stay open. C. Andersen stated that yes the resolution was changed to only include the bar having the tournament which is ANB. It was explained to C. Foster that the resolution that included all bars failed at the last meeting.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Andersen, Foster, Larson

Nays: Brown, Knodel, Pomeranz

Tie vote: Mayor Michels voted affirmative.

The motion CARRIED.

M. Facility Reservation Fee/Waiver – Mini Convention Center
~Bering Straits Foundation Annual Auction November 13, 2008

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to approve the facility reservation fee/waiver for Bering Straits Foundation's Annual Auction.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

Utility Manager Handeland reported that the fuel barge pulled up over the weekend and had to pull off due to weather and hopefully will come back on Thursday. NSEDC is still offering members of the community assistance to offset fuel and energy costs this winter. He asked if there was any objection to NSEDC using the Council Chambers on Thursday and Friday to do some sign ups. He stated that they are getting things buttoned up for winter and could use another month or two of summer.

C. Knodel asked what the flicker in power was today. Utility Manager Handeland stated that they are trying to get some compressor banks online up at the mine and some folks from GE were in town and there was a little mechanical malfunction on the mine side and they weren't able to proceed. The

attempt is to minimize or avoid some of the flickering they have seen here and a resolution on that problem.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

The City Manager Bahnke provided a written report and noted the following:

Her first day was October 15th and she spent a few days with Interim City Manager Peter Hallgren. She attended a Department Head meeting her first day and met with all the staff, including Nome Public Schools and followed up with site visits. She stated she has been doing a lot of listening and learning the past week.

The fuel supply contract went out to bid. Last year the City paid \$3.54 for heating oil/diesel and \$3.49 for unleaded gas. She imagines it will be a lot higher this year. The bids are due October 31st.

As reported in the Nome Nugget, the LEPC voted to operate the sirens daily at noon for ten seconds for maintenance. On October 28th at 3:30 p.m. there will be a multi-agency mass casualty incident exercise at the airport.

The snow removal contract went out.

The Planning Commission approved the final plat application for phase 1 of the Nome 21st Century Subdivision owned by Alaska Gold Company. The Alaska Gold Company will start selling these lots to the public.

An update is provided from Acting Project Manager, Randy Romenesko, on various capital projects.

Administrative Assistant Marguerite La Riviere has agreed to stay on in her position until December 1st and Librarian Dale Brandt has agreed to continue on an emergency hire basis until December 1, 2008.

A draft job description for the Public Works position has been provided along with a draft public works organizational chart.

Meetings of importance; on Wednesday, October 29th there is an open house for the Nome Rec Center Renovation & Department Master Plan and they are working on the legislative priority work session for Dec. 8th.

C. Andersen asked if the Harbor Master position was still open and who is in charge of it. City Manager Bahnke stated that it had not been advertised yet and Frank Tadda's last day is October 31st. Mayor Michels stated that Randy Romenesko is still the Port Director.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

C. Knodel welcomed City Manager Josie Bahnke and Councilman Neal Foster. She also requested that C. Brown, in his Planning Commission position, please show on a map the location of the Nome 21st Century Subdivision.

C. Larson stated that he appreciated everyone's patience with him and he will probably be in Anchorage another 10 days or so. He stated that if the LEPC recommends running the siren to keep it functional then they probably should do that but meanwhile he would like the building inspector to take a look at alternatives in terms of heating the unit or doing something so they don't have to create noise pollution everyday with the turning of the siren.

C. Pomeranz welcomed C. Neal Foster and City Manger Josie Bahnke and sends his condolences to the Cabrera family and he worked with AI for many years. He reported that the streets are slippery so drive with extra caution.

C. Andersen had no comments.

C. Brown had no comments.

C. Foster thanked everyone and stated he looks forward to this opportunity to work with the Council and the people of Nome. He stated that he noticed in the paper the height restriction for structures in the new subdivision until City Field closes and he asked if there was serious talk about closing City Field. The question was directed at C. Brown however Mayor Michels stated she could answer it. Mayor Michels stated that they are working with the State to update the Airport Master Plan and there is a discrepancy between the State and Alaska Gold Company on the appraised value of the land. The State needs to buy land at the area of the current airport to move the City Field runway over so folks with skis would be able to use it. C. Andersen asked if they would eventually close City Field. Mayor Michels responded that once the airport plan is approved this is their intention.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Michels provided a written report and highlighted the following:

- ✓ Met with DOTPF Sr. Planner, the Dowl contractor and Mike McKinnon to get an update on the corridor to Nome. They stated they hope to give a bibliography to Nome by the end of the year and plan to hold a meeting with the community leaders the 1st quarter of 2009 to help them with a recommendation.
- ✓ Said hello to Senator Murkowski while in Anchorage and talked about WRDA.
- ✓ Met with Deputy Commissioner Michael Black regarding the Cruise Ship Fund and he is still waiting to hear from OMB.
- ✓ Met with Congressman Young's Chief of Staff, Michael Andersen and Jeremy Price, who work on our transportation issues. Today the City sent proposed relief language for the port and harbor for their consideration and hope to meet in February with House of Appropriation folks.
- ✓ Had a great meeting today with Nome Eskimo representatives working with the Ad Hoc Transportation Committee working towards aligning our priorities. The goal is for NEC to pass through funds to the City of Nome for maintenance of the city streets by the public works department.
- ✓ Traveling to Kuujuaq, Quebec on Nov. 5 -9 for Kawerak to attend the "Pan-Inuit Leaders Summit on Arctic Sovereignty" hosted by ICC. This is important for the City of Nome as we have the only port north of Dutch Harbor. They are going to discuss Arctic Shipping, International Law and Sovereignty.
- ✓ AML conference in Ketchikan Nov. 9-14, 2008.
- ✓ Port Commission has two seats open. If anyone in the community is interested, please apply.

C. Knodel stated she had a note from John Handeland, Chairperson for Museum and Library Commission and wanted to report that a meeting for the new museum concept will be held at Old St. Joe's at 7:00p.m, Thursday, November 6th. The architect that is putting together the plan will be there.

ADJOURNMENT

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

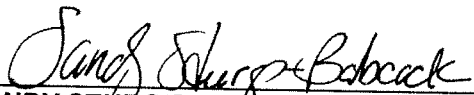
Hearing no objections the Nome City Council adjourned at 8:18 PM.

SIGNED AND DATED the 10th day of November, 2008.



STAN ANDERSEN, Presiding Councilman

ATTEST:


SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer