

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

The Regular Meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Presiding Councilman Andersen 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, Randy Pomeranz

Members Absent: Mayor Michels

Also Present: City Clerk, Sandy Babcock;

In the audience: Diana Handeland, GCI; John Handeland, Utility Manager, Laurie McNicholas, Nome Nugget Newspaper, Paul Burke, Chief of Police; Mitch Erickson, Paul Korchin, KNOM; Rick Luthi, Superintendent NPS

INVOCATION

Paul Korchin gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. November 24, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. December 3, 2008 Special Meeting Minutes

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

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Presiding Councilman Andersen noted that there were several communications and he asked if there were any comments.

CITIZENS REQUESTS AND GRIEVANCES

Mitch Erickson stated that he was here tonight to solicit some advice. He stated that over the past few years they have seen fuel prices rise and programs have been cut, specifically to the schools. He stated that by the time they set their budget and then the fuel shows up the budgets are out of whack. He feels the budget is created at the worse time of the year when they don't know what the expenses are going to be. Mr. Erickson stated he is trying to think of a way to address the legislature so that, as an example, 2006 is set as a base year for fuel prices and for each year after the school district gets reimbursed back for the amount of fuel increase that they had to incur from that budget year. He asked the Council for some direction to address this and he stated he would also be addressing this to the school board tomorrow night and that he has talked with Superintendent Rick Luthi. Mr. Erickson asked if he should present something to the Council.

C. Andersen stated that he thinks the Alaska Municipal League (AML) might already have a resolution addressing this. He suggested that when City Manager Bahnke gets back she could check on this. He believed there was something in the AML's packet that is given to the Legislature and that Mayor Michels would be able to answer this also. C. Andersen continued that during the budget sessions this subject was brought up and that this is one of the reasons they got extra money per student, he believes.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED 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.
~Second Reading, Public Hearing and Final Passage

City Attorney Brooks reported that NOAA is still reviewing language proposed by the Bond Bank and it is his recommendation for a motion to postpone O-08-10-01 to the January 12th, 2009 NCC meeting.

A motion was made by C. Foster and seconded by C. Larson to postpone O-08-10-01 to the January 12, 2009 Nome City Council Meeting.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-08-12-01 An Ordinance of the Nome City Council, Nome, Alaska, Providing for a Temporary Sales Tax Exception for Certain Grocery Items Intended for Human Consumption
~First Reading

Hearing no objection Presiding Councilman Andersen asked the Clerk to read O-08-12-01.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Foster to pass O-08-12-01 on to second reading, public hearing and final passage.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

Utility Manager Handeland reported that it is a nice windy day and perhaps in the next day or two they will have some wind power coming down the line. He stated that they energized the line today and some additional testing is ongoing. He stated that in the next day or two they will be doing a switch over from the new power plant to the old power plant for a day while they commission the fire alarm system. He reported that there are some automatic shut offs that need to be tested.

Utility Manager Handeland requested that Litigation and Financial Matters are added to the Executive Session tonight.

C. Larson asked if they have received any payments from Alaska Gold Company. Utility Manager Handeland responded that yes they have received some payments and the subject of the executive session will be some contract issues.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

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

- Sale of the Reindeer Plant to NSEDC was finalized and payment received on December 4, 2008.
- Chief Burke's last day with the Police Department will be on January 2, 2009. We wish him well and thank him for his service.
- City Manager will attend the Western Alaska Evacuation and Sheltering Workshop from December 10-12, 2008 in Fairbanks. During my absence, Councilman Stan Andersen will serve as Acting City Manager.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

C. Larson had no comments.

C. Pomeranz asked everyone to drive carefully because the streets are slick. He thanked Chief Paul Burke for his time he has been in Nome and stated he doesn't look forward to him leaving.

C. Andersen had no comments.

C. Brown stated he also agrees that it was great having Chief Burke in Nome and he will be missed.

C. Foster stated that Chief Burke has been a very active part of the community in terms of some of the activities that have gone on in town. He feels it has been very noticeable and very positive and he thanked Chief Burke on behalf of the City and stated that his absence will be missed.

C Knodel had no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Michels was on travel status.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

~Labor Contract Negotiations

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to enter into executive session. The Council recessed from regular meeting at 7:41 P.M.


The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 8:27 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections the Nome City Council adjourned at 8:27 PM.

SIGNED AND DATED the 22nd day of December, 2008.



DENISE MICHELS, Mayor

ATTEST:



SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer