

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 22, 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, Neal Foster, telephonically, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, Randy Pomeranz

Members Absent: Jerald Brown

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

In the audience: Donald Handeland, GCI; John Handeland, Utility Manager, Sandra Medearis; Paul Burke, Chief of Police; Paul Korchin, KNOM; Carl Emmons, Matt Johnson, Fire Chief;

INVOCATION

Paul Korchin gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 8, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Larson to approve the minutes..

At the roll call:

Ayes: Foster, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz Andersen

Nays:

Abstain:

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

Carl Emmons addresses the Council requesting a blessing and a donation for the New Years Fireworks show on the ice. He requested a donation of \$2,000.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Larson to approve a donation of \$2,000 for the New Years Fireworks show.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Andersen, Foster, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion CARRIED

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED 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
~Second Reading Public Hearing and Final Passage

Hearing no objection Presiding Councilman Andersen asked the Clerk for the second reading of O-08-12-01.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing the Council recessed at 7:34 P.M.

The Council reconvened at 7: 34 P.M.

Discussion

City Manager Bahnke explained the handout on Grocery Sales Tax Exemptions. She stated that the 2005/2006 Holiday related exempt sales amount was \$196,879.91 and the 2007/2008 amount was \$340,164.93 making it an average of \$268,522.42 impact.

C. Larson stated that the ordinance in front of them is a little bit shorter time than the holiday that existed in 2007/2008. He stated it is about a month and a half shorter so he feels it is probably going to be on the lower end of the history presented.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Andersen to approve O-08-12-01.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Foster, Knodel, Larson, Andersen

Nays: Pomeranz

The motion CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-08-12-03 A Resolution Endorsing Projects and Position Statements for the City of Nome 2009 State Legislative Priorities

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-08-12-03.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Foster, Knodel

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- B. R-08-12-04 A Resolution Endorsing Projects and Position Statements for the City of Nome 2009 Federal Legislative Priorities

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-08-12-04.

Discussion

Mayor Michels stated that she wanted to make sure that the Public Safety Building with the Fire Department's participation as Phase II is a consensus item for moving forward. She stated that if the economic stimulus package moves through with Senator Murkowski this could be a good possibility.

Matt Johnson, Chief of the Nome Volunteer Fire Department stated he was asked to come here tonight to discuss Phase II of this project. He stated that at this time there are really no conceptual drawings of what is available to them and they just have a dollar figure and a rectangular box on top of the existing project. He stated that one thing he can tell them is that the Fire Department is very critical to the infrastructure of Nome and right now they have outgrown the building that they are in. He continued that it wouldn't do any good to make a building any smaller than what they have now. He pointed out that they need to look at what their options are. They need bigger equipment bays, bigger training area, bigger meeting area, bigger office space and a bigger area to repair their own equipment. He realizes the police department will be moving out of the current space once phase I is done but presently they are parking fire trucks in there with a shoe horn. The new fire truck they have coming now is barely going to fit in that building. He explained that there needs to be more discussion about their options whether they move or put an extension on the current building or build a whole new fire hall all to itself. He stated they need to go through with Phase II money but he doesn't know if it is enough. He reported that just today he saw the dollar figures and square footage projections. He stated that a 60 X 105 ft. building would be a nice size and with a second story on one end for offices and that type of stuff upstairs it would work very well. He stated that the current design of Phase I for the kitchen and meeting area is too small for them because right now it is set-up for 30 people and they have 40+ members. He stated that these things need to be considered.

Mayor Michels stated that they look forward to their participation and if this money does come through they will probably have to move very fast with the Council to figure out what is best needed for both.

C. Andersen stated that the other building is about \$8 million and if they are asking for \$2.3 million and it is not enough do they go back next year and ask for additional money.

Mayor Michels stated that they probably would prefer they do not do this unless they were to build it in phases and there is justification. She suggested that the Architects, City Manager and Chief sit down with the Council to come up with a plan.

C. Andersen pointed out that the resolution does not include Fire Hall in Phase II it only states Public Safety Building Phase II. It was agreed by the Council to include Fire Hall also.

C. Larson asked how the \$2.3 million figure was determined. Matt Johnson and C. Andersen explained it was a formula of the square feet, 60 X 105, calculated at \$400 a square foot. Mr. Johnson explained that there wasn't a floor plan and that the cost was an estimate based on square footage. C. Larson asked what the square footage was of the current facility. Matt stated it is 40 X 140 or 5600 square feet and the new building would be a little bigger at 6300 square feet but the bays would be much bigger. C. Larson stated that when he talked with the Architects they told him that the kitchen and training spaces for the Public Safety Building project were not designed for the fire department and that they would have their own facility. Mr. Johnson stated they need a semi commercial kitchen and he thought he was told they would share the training area. C. Larson suggested that Mr. Johnson get together with the City Manager and Randy Romenesko to make a quick determination about the money needed.

Mayor Michels stated that they will have to do this and get something to Larry Markley by the 6th.

C. Larson suggested that the City consider hiring a lobbyist to push these things for the next couple of months. He stated that the Congress and the President elect are working on this huge economic stimulus package and this would be money well invested.

Mayor Michels asked Utility Manager John Handeland to look into this and to check with Larry Markley and his schedule. Utility Manager Handeland stated that Mr. Markley does make periodic trips back and forth to Washington D.C. and he feels Mr. Markley would agree to take on this task with the support and assistance of the Council. C. Andersen asked how big his staff was and Mr. Handeland responded that he worked by himself.

C. Larson stated that the figures they are talking about in Washington D.C. are huge; \$850 billion was the last one. He feels they should have someone pushing for the Hospital and the Public Safety Building.

Mayor Michels stated that they had a teleconference today with Senator Elect Begich and he sent a 2009 Economic Recovery Package Project Request Form asking them to prioritize construction ready (in 120 days) projects and the number one project is the Hospital. The list needs to be sent by December 29, 2008. Mayor Michels reported that the only thing on Governor Palin's list was four highways; projects that support the pipeline and Senator Elect Begich has asked her to reconsider.

C. Larson stated that they have had a loss of 100 jobs in this Community and it would be nice to get something going with the hospital. He suggested that maybe they could authorize the City Manager and Mr. Handeland up to a specific amount and they could talk to the lobbyists and see if they feel it is warranted and they could work out a deal to hire someone for 60 or 90 days.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Foster

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

C. Knodel stated she would like to make a motion to approve the hiring of Federal Lobbyists.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to approve the hiring of Federal lobbyists up to 120 days not to exceed \$100,000.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Foster, Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

Utility Manager Handeland stated he had nothing new to report but they did submit a resolution as a handout tonight that needs their action this evening so they could close the fuel bond tomorrow and make some payments. He requested Financial Matters to be added to the executive session tonight.

R-08-12-05 A Resolution of the City of Nome, Alaska Amending Resolution No. R-08-10-11 to Increase the Maturity of the Utility Revenue Anticipation Note of the City Authorized by Resolution No. R-08-10-11 from Twelve to Eighteen Months

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve R-08-12-05

Discussion

C. Larson asked the interest rate. Mr. Handeland responded 5%.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Pomeranz, Andersen, Foster, Knodel, Larson

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Bahnke handed out a written report and commented on the following;

- Commend all of the Nome Fire Department Volunteers and Staff for making the Fireman's Carnival a success.
- Thank the Museum Director, Laura Samuelson and staff for a well attended and successful Christmas Extravaganza.
- City was recognized as a co-host to the Western Alaska Evacuation and Sheltering workshop in Fairbanks last week. There were a lot of participants from Nome and it was money well spent.
- Conceptual design for the new Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum is moving forward. Museum staff coordinated a two day work session with the architects and exhibit designer which included an assessment of existing collections and exhibits to lay out of a conceptual design for the building. Information necessary for the City of Nome Legislative Priority Packet will be completed in early January 2009.
- Capital Project report by Randy Romenesko is included in the City Manager's report. The Harbor Improvement and Landfill projects are near completion. Most of the piling work at the Public Safety Building is done.
- Report from Joy Baker, Acting Harbor Master; Port of Nome FY08-YTD FY09 revenue. FY08 revenue for Causeway and Jetty total \$777,276.31 an already YTD FY09 this year the revenue received has been \$643,489.78. Compared to other years it looks like the revenue has increased quite a bit.
- Work session to interview Dallas Massie for Interim Chief of Police will be re-scheduled for tomorrow, December 23 and the time to be determined.

The Council agreed to 9:00am to start the work session.

C. Andersen requested that Chief Burke address some of the issues in his exit report which was just given to them this evening. The Clerk noted that it was distributed by City Manager Bahnke in their Council boxes for those that hadn't seen it and it was labeled as confidential. They Council asked that Chief Burke attend the work session tomorrow.

C. Andersen stated that regarding the Public Safety Building he is requesting that as early as possible into the new year they have a Public Meeting to discuss: the budget, what is being built, how it is going to be built and before the final design is stamped and ready to go he feels the public should know what they are going to get for their money. He would like an open house and a presentation explaining the layout, the size, drainage, doors in the back and snow blowing in, etc. He stated that Chief Burke addressed a few issues also like the 911 communications. C. Andersen asked if something could be set up and get something in the newspaper.

C. Knodel suggested a presentation by Randy Romenesko at their next meeting.

C. Larson stated that in her report she mentioned under item 3 ICS training and he asked her previous experience with this. City Manager Bahnke responded that she was certified while in Fairbanks last week.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

C Knodel wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe Holidays.

C. Larson stated he would like the Council to ask the City Manager to keep on top of the sale of Pilgrim Hot Springs. He stated that maybe she could contact the Catholic Church that has been on the radio and expressing some interest by the City such that the City is advised on whether there are any bids or a sale price reached. He feels this is a valuable resource in the region for geothermal, an important subsistence area with red salmon now and the recreational value. He feels it is worthwhile for the City to stay on top of this and make sure it doesn't end up being an unfavorable thing for residents in this area.

C. Pomeranz wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

C. Andersen asked Mayor Michels if the questions asked by Mitch Erickson at the last meeting were addressed. She responded that his comments have been forwarded to the AML and it will be a topic at the January Board meeting.

C. Foster wished everyone Happy Holidays.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Michels stated that as she mentioned earlier in the meeting they had a teleconference today with Senator Elect Begich and he sent a 2009 Economic Recovery Package Project Request Form asking them to prioritize construction road projects. She stated that they will get together with the City Manager and Utility Manager and get a list together that is due by December 29th.

Mayor Michels had a meeting with Jim Mallory and expressed the City's interest in extending the road to the Public Safety Building where it crosses over Alaska Gold Co. property. They will be looking into this in the future.

Mayor Michels thanked everyone that takes the time to shovel the sidewalks. It is very much appreciated so folks are not walking in the middle of the streets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Michels stated that they do need to go into executive session to discuss Financial Matters as requested earlier in the meeting by Utility Manager Handeland.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to enter into executive session. The Council recessed from regular meeting at 8:12 P.M.

The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 9:25 P.M.

~Personnel Matters – Interim Chief of Police

Mayor Michels stated that the plane with Interim Police Chief Candidate Dallas Massie onboard did not land due to poor weather conditions in Nome. The work session to interview Mr. Massie was rescheduled to the following morning at 9:00am. She stated that this meeting and the Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters – Interim Chief of Police position could continue the next day after the work session.

Hearing no objection and with unanimous consent the meeting was recessed to the next day following the 9:00 AM work session.

December 23, 2008 - Meeting reconvened at 9:24AM

Members Present: Stan Andersen, Neal Foster, telephonically, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, Randy Pomeranz
Members Absent: Jerald Brown
Also Present: City Manager, Josie Bahnke; City Clerk, Sandy Babcock;
In the audience: John Handeland, Utility Manager, Paul Burke, Chief of Police; Dallas Massie

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to enter into executive session. The Council recessed from regular meeting at 9:24 AM.

The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 10:26 AM

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to authorize the City Manager to negotiate a contract for Interim Chief of Police with Dallas Massie.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Foster

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Knodel to waive re-payment of moving fees for Police Chief Paul Burke.

Ayes: Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Foster, Knodel

Nays:

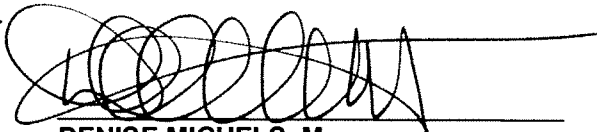
The motion CARRIED

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 10:27 AM.

SIGNED AND DATED the 12th day of January 2009.



DENISE MICHELS, Mayor

ATTEST:



SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer