

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 9, 2009**

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 Knodel, Randy Pomeranz
Members Absent: Jon Larson, Neal Foster
Also Present: City Manager, Josie Bahnke; City Clerk, Sandy Babcock
In the audience: Diana Handeland, GCI; Dallas Massie, Interim Chief of Police; Rick Luthi, Superintendent of Nome Public Schools; Paul Korchin, KNOM, Jim Adams, Laurie McNicholas

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 9, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Presiding Councilman Andersen stated that there were several communications and he mentioned the Invitation to Meet from the Nome School Board on March 24, 2009 for a work session to discuss the FY10 School Year.

Presiding Councilman Andersen referred to a communication in the packet from Representative Jay Ramras to Mr. Kevin Banks, Director of the Department of Natural Resources regarding a 2005 study on the topic of natural gas in the Norton Basin. Mr. Ramras is asking Mr. Banks for a copy of an analysis of that report and Councilman Andersen would like the City to obtain a copy of this analysis also.

Presiding Councilman Andersen stated that he looked at the press release from Senator Lisa Murkowski and the only line item he found was for the Nome harbor. He asked if the City was eligible for these other pots of money like sewer and water. City Manager Bahnke stated that this was a FY 09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill that was passed with a lot of maintenance funding on an annual allocation schedule and the \$700,000 is earmarked for the dredging at the Port.

Presiding Councilman Andersen asked if anyone wanted to respond to Mitch Erickson concerning Pilgrim Hot Springs. Councilman Knodel requested that the e-mail is passed on to John Handeland and the Utility Board because John has been looking into this.

Presiding Councilman Andersen referred to a letter from Mr. Steve Deaton with the U.S. Postal Service and asked if the post office is still going ahead with their plans to have a hub in Savoonga despite all the public comment. City Manager Bahnke stated that the letter in the packet indicates that they are.

Presiding Councilman Andersen mentioned the letter from the School Board requesting the amount of \$134,000 from the City for the JROTC Program. He stated that this is a line item in their budget and he wondered why they had to request it. City Manager Bahnke stated that it was her understanding that a formal letter of request is procedure and that the action has already been taken. Councilman Andersen didn't think that a letter of request was needed in the past and he asked for clarification from the City Manager.

CITIZENS REQUESTS AND GRIEVANCES

Jim Adams stated that he heard an interview on the radio with NJUS and the topic was HB 66 and net metering with alternate wind source or wind power and it sounded like they were going to oppose it. He stated he is hoping the City will back any moves to help us reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and effort in HB 66 will help the individual do that. He stated that he has a wind mill at his place that cost him \$25,000 and is hoping HB 66 will pass and help him get some payback and contribute to the City the excess power he does not use.

Councilman Knodel commented that she is not familiar with HB 66 but she remembers from previous discussions about direct metering that the concern was if they bill back for what they are charging then nobody is going to end up paying for costs of operating the power plant and keep the generators running should the wind quit blowing and that is why they did not want the direct metering system, she thinks.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-09-03-01 An Ordinance Authorizing the Vacation of Portions of the Gold Avenue Right of Way Platted within Blocks 1 and 2 of the Official Plat of the Townsite of Nome, Alaska
~First Reading
- B. O-09-03-02 An Ordinance Amending Sections 5.10.070 and 11.30.040 and 11.50.040 of the Nome Municipal Code to Conform these Sections to Title 18
~First Reading
- C. O-09-03-03 An Ordinance Amending the Nome Code of Ordinances, Chapter 17.20, Property Tax, to Change the Penalty Rate Calculation on Delinquencies and to Further Clarify the Process for Accrual of Penalty and Interest
~First Reading
- D. O-09-03-04 An Ordinance Approving the 2009 Operations and Maintenance Budget for Nome Joint Utilities System
~First Reading

Hearing no objection Presiding Councilman Andersen asked the Clerk to read O-09-03-01, O-09-03-02, O-09-03-03 and O-09-03-04.

A motion was made by C. Pomeranz and seconded by C. Knodel to pass O-09-03-01, O-09-03-02, O-09-03-03 and O-09-03-04 on to second reading, public hearing and final passage.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Brown, Knodel, Pomeranz, Andersen

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

E. R-09-03-01 A Resolution Setting the Date for the 2009 Board of Equalization

Hearing no objection Presiding Councilman Andersen asked the Clerk to read R-09-03-01.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve Resolution R-09-03-01.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown, Knodel

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

F. R-09-03-02 A Resolution of the City of Nome, Alaska Designating the General Obligation School Bonds, 2009 Series A of the City as Qualified Tax Exempt Obligations Under Section 265(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986

Hearing no objection Presiding Councilman Andersen asked the Clerk to read R-09-03-02.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve Resolution R-09-03-02.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Andersen, Brown, Knodel, Pomeranz

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

G. R-09-03-03 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with EDC, Inc. for the Mechanical and Electrical Design Services for the Snow Storage Building Project

Hearing no objection Presiding Councilman Andersen asked the Clerk to read R-09-03-03..

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to approve Resolution R-09-03-03.

At the roll call:
Ayes: Brown, Knodel, Pomeranz, Andersen
Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- H. R-09-03-04 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with Bettisworth+Northwind, LLC for the Consultant Scope of work: Task 4 – Construction Administration Services for the Public Safety Building Project

Hearing no objection Presiding Councilman Andersen asked the Clerk to read R-09-03-04.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to approve Resolution R-09-03-04.

At the roll call:
Ayes: Knodel, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown
Nays:

The motion CARRIED

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

Utility Manager Handeland is out of town.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Bahnke provided a written report in the packet and commented on the following:

- The City of Nome has a new piece of artwork. It is a 48 star flag from around Statehood and it has been donated by Nancy McGuire, owner of the Nome Nugget Newspaper. It is framed and hanging on the back wall of the Council Chambers.
- Recognizing the hard work of Public Works crew. Included in the packet is a 2009 snow removal report.
- Sales tax and Bed tax revenue reports through the end of January are included in the packet.
- A February Police Crime Report is in the packet and Chief Massie is in the audience if anyone has questions for him.
- Thanks to C. Andersen for being the Acting City Manager while she was in Washington DC with Mayor Michels, Utility Manager Handeland and Utility Board Chair Jim West Jr.
- The Alaska Municipal Bond Bank did approve the application from the City of Nome for the Building D & E Roof Replacement project at the High School. The next step is that this will be included with a \$30 million bond package with other municipalities in the state. This was the reason for the resolution tonight which designated the City's school bonds as qualified tax exempt obligations.
- Submitted to DOT for consideration a project nomination for the extension of Steadman Street to the Bypass Road.

- The DOT Stimulus money that came to Alaska included \$4,000,000 for Nome Road Improvements and it is working it way through the State Legislative process.

C. Andersen asked if this money comes to the City of Nome or to DOT. City Manager Bahnke stated that the money will be used for construction of City of Nome streets and that it won't necessarily come to the City but it is to be used on projects that have been identified as priorities. C. Andersen stated that if it is funneled through the DOT then they get their admin and all their other costs and the actual amount for improvements end up being a lot less. City Manager Bahnke stated that none of this would be going to design which can be an expensive part of construction. She stated that it is still up in the air and the project title and amounts have changed over the past few weeks and she will keep the Council informed. C. Andersen stated that if it looks like the language isn't beneficial to them sometimes there is time to change just a few words that can make it beneficial to Nome. City Manager stated that right now this funding is specifically for dust mitigation meaning paving or chemical treatment and for drainage improvement.

C. Knodel stated that these are items on the list of priorities that the subcommittee has been working on.

C. Andersen stated that he has yet to get a copy of this report that everyone refers to; the Subcommittee report. City Manager Bahnke stated she could get him a copy.

- Met with the National Park Service to work on finalization of the land exchange that has been ongoing and which the Council has already approved.
- Police Chief recruitment committee has been put together and they will meet on Friday 13th at noon to discuss the selection process of hiring a Police Chief. We have received two applications and a lot of inquiries.
- Starting to work on the FY 2010 budget. The City was awarded a 2009 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for \$30,000 on March 5, 2009 to help support emergency management staff salaries and training.
- Candace Harman-Wiedler is a new face in the office and has been hired as the new Administrative Assistant II. Welcome Candace.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

C. Pomeranz wanted to remind people to keep their cars out of the streets if possible. The City crews are trying hard and they need our help too. Congratulations to the Nome Boys Basketball Team in winning Regions and going on to the State tournament.

C. Andersen had no comments.

C. Brown had no comments.

C. Knodel asked if a work session could be setup in early April to go over the ordinance sent to them by City Attorney Brooks concerning the tobacco tax. She also wanted to ask people to keep their cars out of the roadway and she would like to thank the public works crew.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Michels is out of town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

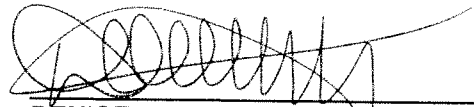
The executive session for legal & financial Matters with Alaska Gold Company was cancelled as there was no updated information to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

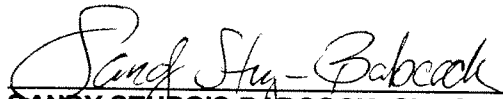
Hearing no objections the Nome City Council adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

SIGNED AND DATED the 13th day of April 2009.


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Michels", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

DENISE MICHELS, Mayor

ATTEST:


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Sturgis-Babcock", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer