

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 13, 2009**

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, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, Randy Pomeranz
Members Absent: Neal Foster
Also Present: City Clerk, Sandy Babcock
In the audience: Diana Handeland, GCI; Bill Angus, Public Works Director; Paul Korchin, KNOM, Laurie McNicholas, Richard Beneville, John Handeland

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. March 9, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. March 23, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

The motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Michels reported that the various communications were available in their packets, online and at the Clerk's office and asked if there were any questions.

Mayor Michels highlighted the letter written from the Nome Public Schools Board to Governor Sarah Palin encouraging her to accept the \$170M in education money for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. She also pointed out the letter from FEMA regarding a public meeting on Wednesday, April 29th from 5:00 – 6:30pm.

CITIZENS REQUESTS AND GRIEVANCES

There were no citizen comments.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-09-04-01 A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding for the Roof Replacement on the Nome Jr/Sr High Building D&E

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-09-04-01.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve Resolution R-09-04-01.

Discussion

Mayor Michels and C. Andersen suggested the Council make a list of their questions for the City Manager to answer when she returns. Below are the questions asked.

C. Knodel referenced pg. 30 #4 - Are the Architect's Services separate from the rest of the contract, because it says under #5 that the City will reimburse the District for payments that they make.

C. Andersen asked what apartments were being remodeled. C. Pomeranz answered this by telling him it was six or seven bottom floor apartments. He told Stan that previously the top floor and outside work was done at the apartments. C. Andersen asked if they use the rental money to do this and C. Pomeranz responded that he thinks they had another grant.

C. Andersen asked about the completion date of March 2014? Mayor Michels stated that this date follows the grant deadline, but C. Andersen was concerned about making it by this deadline.

C. Andersen asked if the City would get part of the Administrative Costs since the money is passing through the City. The City should get a percentage since we are handling the money. He would like this looked at. C. Pomeranz stated it looks like it would fall under page 30 #4 b "District Administrative Costs", but C. Knodel stated it doesn't seem to be about the City.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- B. R-09-04-02 A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between the Nome Eskimo Community (NEC) and the City of Nome to Establish a Partnership for Road Maintenance Activities

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-09-04-02.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Brown to approve Resolution R-09-04-02.

Discussion

C. Knodel stated that in the resolution the fourth "whereas" should be struck since it was included from a previous resolution by mistake.

C. Knodel referenced page 39 of the packet or page 3 of the agreement, about halfway down the page where it states that the agreement can be terminated upon ten (10) days written notice. C. Knodel thinks 60 -90 days would be better. She gave the example that if we were in the middle of a project

and counting on some money and somebody cancels the contract within ten days and we are not finished with our project, it wouldn't work very well. C. Knodel suggested that the City Manager negotiate longer termination dates.

Along these lines C. Andersen commented that it stated that funds are intended to supplement and not to supplant the City's annual maintenance budget. Mayor Michels stated that this agreement is just regarding maintenance not construction so any construction would require a separate MOA with the City.

C. Larson asked for clarification on if they wanted to postpone to another meeting or vote on it. C. Knodel stated that they are just approving the resolution and under the MOA the City Manager could try and negotiate longer termination dates.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

C. R-09-04-03 A Resolution Accepting the Proposal for the Design Services for the Nome Recreation Center Roof Replacement from NorthWind Architects, LLC and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter an Agreement with the Architects for the Services

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-09-04-03.

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

Discussion

C. Brown wanted to bring up the subject of lights in the Rec. Center and he reminded everyone that from previous discussions, the comment was that the lighting in the Rec. Center would be looked at when the Architect takes a look at the roof. He stated that if there is any extra money left over and we are able to do something with the lighting where the City can save thousands of dollars a year we should try and do it.

C. Andersen pointed out that they need to know the total costs first and he mentioned that in the proposal Evelyn mentions a savings of \$700,000 and using \$450,000 for locker room improvements.

C. Brown wants to make absolutely sure that lighting is looked at.

C. Andersen stated that in Randy's agenda statement he mentions 12" of insulation and Evelyn talks about 9", under option one, in her letter to Randy. Stan stated it indicates a 3" EPDM membrane but he is asking for clarification.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown, Knodel

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

Facility Reservation Fee/Waiver – Old St. Joe's
~Nome Community Schools-Annual Art Show-April 21-29, 2009

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve the fee waiver for Nome Community Schools.

Discussion

C. Larson asked if the waiver request was to reduce the daily rental fee to \$100 per day and the answer was yes.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown, Knodel, Larson

Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

Utility Manager Handeland reported the following:

- Representatives from GE and their switch gear company were in town to work on some of the breakers. He stated that some of the breakers were not operating correctly and the Utilities had made a claim with the manufacturer. After coming to Nome and witnessing for themselves a breaker failure the companies will now be doing some additional repairs on that equipment.
- They had a waste water discharge over the weekend. A couple of man holes over flowed on River Street when the pumps failed to operate properly on Saturday afternoon and discharged some waste water onto the street. A report was made to DEC and they worked with them on a mitigation plan. The utility crew and the public works crew worked together to mitigate it. He stated that they also have an electrician working on some electrical issues that they believe contributed to it.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Bahnke is out of town.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

C. Andersen had no comments.

C. Brown related that as they go into the budget cycle with the school and the city he would like them to look at some capital expenditures for energy efficiency upgrades and lighting and that sort of thing. He stated that the gymnasium at the elementary school sadly needs better lighting and they could actually put LED lights in the gymnasium and the Rec. Center. There is fairly intensive high bay LED lighting now which would utilize the current fixtures and it wouldn't be the same concern they had with the fluorescents. The same thing could be applied with the street lights and the Christmas lights on Front Street which are a big energy sink as well.

C. Knodel had no comments.

C. Larson had no comments.

C. Pomeranz had no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Michels provided written reports in the packet and highlighted the following:

- Admiral Brooks had to cancel his trip due to the volcano eruption and we are looking at May for USCG planning in 09.
- Met with Admiral Brooks staff and they are looking at August 10-24th, 2009 for 40 Coast Guard personnel coming to Nome and also traveling to the Villages. It is going to be an education component and they are looking at maybe having the helicopter land at the Rec. Center area for kids to come see it and learn what the Coast Guard does. Also, looking at a drop or demonstration with the divers out of the helicopters and if the C-130 is here, maybe a drop of the rafts. If it is successful they would like to think about doing it annually.
- In the packet is an e-mail from Jeremy Price who is the Legislative Director for Congressman Don Young regarding the highways bill. They have been tracking the new highway reauthorization to make sure that the Denali Commission access funds will still be in there.
- Just returned from Juneau along with the City Manager, Utility Manager and the Museum Director. We held an Easter Brunch that was very successful with over 300 staff, legislators and administration folks, including the Governor. Also, Admiral Brooks was there and it was an opportunity for him to talk about how important our Port will be in the coming years with global warming. We also talked about our priorities but it does not look like there will be a capital budget right now.
- Representative Foster says hello and he is doing well. There was a presentation given to him from the Joint Military Committee and they gave him the blue star for his two sons that are serving in the Military.
- On April 16, 2009 at 9:00am in the Council Chambers, Karen Knutsen, Chief of Staff for Senator Murkowski will be here to discuss our City issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ~Legal Issue –Alaska Gold Company
- ~Personnel Matter – City Manager- 6 Month Performance Review

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to enter into executive session. The Council recessed from regular meeting at 7:51 P.M.

The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 8:25 P.M

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Knodel to increase City Manager Bahnke's salary from \$80,000 to \$95,000 annually effective April 13, 2009.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Pomeranz, Andersen, Brown

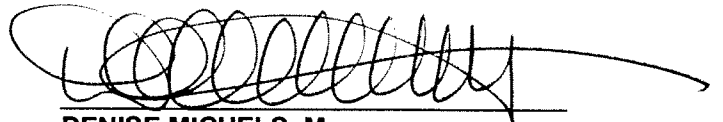
Nays:

The motion CARRIED.

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 8:27 P.M.

SIGNED AND DATED the 11th day of May 2009.



DENISE MICHELS, Mayor

ATTEST:



SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer