

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 11, 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, Neal Foster, Mary Knodel, Jon Larson, Randy Pomeranz

Members Absent:

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

In the audience: Diana Handeland, GCI; Kevin Knowlton, Maj. (R) John G. Grennon, Sgt. Preston Stotts, Jim Adams, Mitch Erickson, Rick Luthi, Superintendent of NPS; Louise Kuntz-Tadda, Marcy Merrill, Sandy Harvey, Nicholas Harvey, Paul Korchin, KNOM, Laurie McNicholas, Ahbree Verdin,

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 13, 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, 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 Clerk's office and asked if there were any questions.

C. Knodel commented that she would like to get a copy of the draft MOA that was mentioned in the letter from Guy McConnell, Chief, Environmental Resources Section, Department of the Army, regarding the Nome Navigation Improvement Project at the Nome Sandspit.

C. Knodel mentioned the communication in the packet from the Bering Sea Women's Group and stated that she wanted to make sure the City Manager included their request for \$15,000 in the budgeting process.

C. Larson stated that in regards to C. Knodel's comment about the MOA, he asked who on behalf of the City has been looking through this agreement and negotiating with the Chief, Environmental Resources Section. Mayor Michels stated that John Handeland, on the Museum and Library Commission; Laura Samuelson, Museum Director and City Manager Bahnke have been involved. He stated that at some point in time when we are going to act on it, one of them should be there to say whether or not our concerns have been met.

OATH OF OFFICE – Nicholas A. Harvey, City of Nome Police Officer, by City Clerk.

CITIZENS REQUESTS AND GRIEVANCES

Ahbreë Verdin stated she was here on behalf of the JROTC and she thanked the Council for the funding they received this year giving her the opportunity to be the Battalion Commander. She invited the Council Members to the annual JROTC awards banquet. She stated that some of the cadets will be promoted and receive awards and some will be retiring, such as herself, and she will be passing the flag on to the next person. Ms. Verdin handed out an invitation to each Councilman.

Maj. John Grennon stated that the cadets wanted to thank the Council for all the support this year and so did he. He stated that the cadets held a car wash last weekend to raise money for this banquet which is a prime rib dinner. He stated that as an update on their inspection status, they received 88% which is fabulous considering last year they had no place to practice and drill. They received 91% in briefing and Sam Schmidt received a perfect score on the public affairs part. Both Sam and Ahbreë received the Brigade Commanders coin which is something special for them. The latest JROTC pamphlets were passed out to the Council.

Mitch Erickson stated he was here to give an update on the audited energy cost project and he has included a letter in their packet that he wrote to Rep. Brice Edgmon, Co-Chair House Energy Committee. He stated that he had briefly discussed this with Rep. Edgmon when the Energy House Committee was in Nome in January and he was interested in it because he stated he was also a member of the education committee. Mr. Erickson stated that he is working with Mr. Luthi, Superintendent of Nome Public Schools to bring in other schools. Mr. Erickson referred the Council to page 16 of their packet and explained that the base year that he looked at was FY 04 and that the increases in energy costs started about this time. Rep. Edgmon's staff said that this task was so big there would not be any action on the energy issues this session and they would be continuing on this summer. Mr. Erickson stated that he believes this is an excellent option that should be presented to the legislature with the backing of the City and School Districts because it is a win-win with everybody. Energy costs continue to cut away from the school budgets forcing cuts in programs and personnel and this proposal would have the State of Alaska reimburse each school district for the difference between the current year and the "base year" in energy costs. He stated that if anyone has any questions or would like more information to let him know.

Mayor Michels asked Mr. Erickson if he had talked with Representatives Foster and Senator Olson. He stated he talked with Senator Olson's staff and with Rep. Richard Foster also.

Rich Luthi, Superintendent of Nome Public Schools, commented that the proposal Mr. Erickson is working on makes a lot of sense, benefits everyone in the state and he hopes to continue to work with him on this project.

Mr. Luthi stated that he wanted to correct a statement he had made at the meeting earlier today. The district has one position, not two, in the budget that they are looking at holding until they receive more information about funding. He continued that he has information that was asked for at the earlier meeting concerning teacher –pupil ratios. Mr. Luthi handed out a spreadsheet titled "Nome Public Schools Projected Enrollment for 2009-2010 which included elementary projections per grade and teacher schedules for Jr. and Sr. High School. The elementary projection shows a total of 19 teachers with an average of 18 pupils per classroom. A statement on the bottom of the Sr. High schedule states that the schedule is based on 180 high school students with 12.5 teachers and a teacher:student ration of 1 to 14 – 15 each class period. The last page shows the Jr. High schedule based on serving 80 junior high students with a teacher:student ratio of 1 to 11 -12 students each class period.

C. Larson asked about comparisons with other school districts. C. Knodel stated that this information can be found online. Mr. Luthi suggested that he could provide the numbers if they liked and added that if anyone looks it up they should pull up figures for Northwest Arctic and Bering Straits School Districts since they are the closest neighbors.

Marcy Merrill, President of the Nome Pre-School, stated that she wanted to thank the Council for their support and putting them on the agenda tonight with their letter of request for funding as mentioned by the Mayor. She stated that she and Louise Kuntz-Tadda were here and available for questions. (The letter of request will be in the next packet – per City Clerk)

Jim Adams stated that his place is drying out pretty good and he wanted to thank the Public Works Department for doing a good job this year. He stated that with all the press Kotzebue is getting these guys are making his home town of Kotzebue look bad.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-09-04-04 A Resolution Recommending the Adoption of Fees for Conditional Use Permit Applications

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

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

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- B. R-09-04-05 A Resolution Requesting FY10 Payment in Lieu of Taxes Funding from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-09-04-05.

A motion was made by C. Foster and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve Resolution R-09-04-05.

At the roll call:

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

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- C. R-09-05-01 A Resolution Approving a Contract with Resource Data, Inc. (RDI) for Workflow & Business Requirement for the Clerk & Finance Departments

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-09-05-01.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to approve Resolution R-09-05-01.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED

D. R-09-05-02 A Resolution Confirming Victoria (Vickie) Erickson as Ambulance Chief of the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department

Hearing no objection Mayor Michels asked the Clerk to read R-09-05-02.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to approve Resolution R-09-05-02.

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED

E. Liquor License Transfer Request

- ~ From: Stanley Sobocienski, DBA: Wallace Liquor Store,
- ~ To: Sanford W. Brown, DBA: Nome Commercial Company

No Objection was heard from the Council on the transfer of the above liquor license.

UTILITY MANAGER REPORT

Utility Manager Handeland was not here.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

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

- A considerable amount of time has been spent in response to the advent of the H1N1 virus (Swine Flu). I received some information today to do with costs to the ambulance, fire and police department budgets.
- I was informed by Patrick Cotter, DOT Planner, that the completion of the Bypass Road from N Street to Front Street is being considered for approval in the STIP and the estimated cost is about \$2.5M.
- Last week I met with representatives from Shell Oil who were in town looking at Nome as a supply center for the next shipping season.
- Last Friday the LEPC had a hazmat drill with the city, school district, ambulance and fire. This was my first drill as incident commander. I want to thank Charlie Lean and Chief Erickson for helping out with that.
- Staff Changes: Welcome to Nicholas Harvey as Police Officer and Jeremiah Angusuc as a new Communication Officer. Building Maintenance employee, Allen Maxwell is the acting

Building Inspector at this time. Chief Massie is out of town this week and Sergeant Redburn will be the acting Chief in his absence.

- Last Friday met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Archaeologist to discuss artifacts and the draft MOA just received. I believe the Council's comments have been included and a copy of the draft MOA will be provided to the Council following this meeting.
- Last Thursday met with EPA and DEC, had some air quality folks in town. They work closely with NEC with their general assistance program. They are looking at doing a pilot project in Nome for dust control and were here gathering information.
- FEMA – a representative from the Department of Homeland Security will be here to tour the Cape Nome Jetty project on Friday. Let me know if anyone would like to come along.
- Upcoming dates: May 18th work session for the FY10 general budget. The next scheduled Council meeting falls on Memorial Day so I would like to ask if you would like to reschedule it. May 21st, is graduation and May 30th is City wide Spring Clean-up.

The Council agreed to re-schedule the May 25th meeting to May 26th at 7:30pm.

City Manager Bahnke reminded the Council that May 26th was also a date reserved to meet with the Kawerak Board to discuss the museum. The Council suggested that May 27th for a noon meeting might work best.

Mayor Michels stated that she was concerned with Spring Clean-up approaching with so much snow on the ground still. She asked the City Manager to be flexible with the dates as we monitor the impact of the snow.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

C. Brown had no comments.

C. Foster stated he received some communications from a citizen that wants to make sure the City follows up with efforts at the West Beach this summer to make sure that it stays clean which I assume is just a matter of staying on top of the enforcements. C. Knodel commented that a lot of the property is Sitnasauk land not the City and she suggested he pass this on to the Sitnasauk Board also.

C. Knodel asked C. Andersen how the skate park is coming. C. Andersen stated that they have asked Alaska Gold for help with materials and Charlie is still up for doing the cement work. Mayor Michels mentioned that Lance Johnson with the Community Center had some funding and C. Andersen replied that the funding might be for use after it is built. C. Andersen stated that it is going to require a lot of manual labor for the cement part and he confirmed that they should get the skate park done this summer.

C. Larson had no comments.

C. Pomeranz had no comments.

C. Andersen had no comments

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Michels provided a written report and highlighted the following:

- Interviewed with Tracy Bodreau, Alaska Business Monthly and with the Association of General Contractors regarding the City of Nome and the Chamber participated.

- Traveled to Seward to Christen the Crowley Tug, Nachik. The tug is made for Western Alaska and there is information on Crowley's website about it.
- Continuing to coordinate with USCG Admiral Brooks for the June 4th visit here at the Council Chambers.
- Representative Fairclough of District 17 will be visiting June 2nd and will be given a tour of Nome by the City Manager.
- Received an invitation to attend USACE Col. Wilson and USCG Admiral Brooks change of command ceremonies and would like to spend available travel dollars in the Mayors budget and present them with a City of Nome gold pan for a gift. I feel it is very important to let them know we are here and that we keep up on that.

Mayor Michels recommended appointment of Jeff Darling to the Port Commission for a 2-year term.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Pomeranz to approve the appointment of Jeff Darling to the Nome Port Commission,

At the roll call:

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

The motion CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to enter into executive session. The Council recessed from regular meeting at 8:06 P.M.

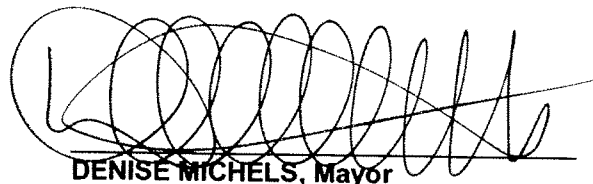
The Council reconvened the regular meeting at 8:53 P.M

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections the Nome City Council adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

SIGNED AND DATED the 26th day of May, 2009.



DENISE MICHELS, Mayor

ATTEST:


SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer