

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 8, 2009**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 12:00 P.M., Noon, 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, Jon Larson

Members Absent: Mayor Denise Michels, Randy Pomeranz,

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

In the audience: Paul Korchin, KNOM, Laurie McNicholas, Maj.(R) John G. Grennon, Tara Richards, Zack Ailak, Gregory Saclamana, Bruce Klein, Abby Huggins, Lily Fawn White, Jessica Saclamana, Sam Schmidt, Lynette Schmidt, Steve Smith, Jenny Martens, Jeff Selvey, Rich Luthi, Julia Yoder Elmore, Tom Buzek, Chris Kilby, Lorne D. Carroll, Nathan Barron, Greg A. Kruschek

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 26, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

At the roll call:

Ayes: Brown, Knodel, Larson, Andersen

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Presiding Councilman Andersen reported there were several communications in the packet and he asked if there were any questions or comments.

C. Larson stated that in regards to the request from the Nome Sportsman Association he feels they should approve their request to use the Sunset range located at Mile 9 of the Nome Teller Road for the purpose of holding a two day event called Women On Target.

C. Larson requested that City Manager Bahnke work with Sitnasauk Native Corporation for placement of the Two Eskimo Boy's statue.

C. Andersen asked if a resolution or formal agreement would be needed for use of the shooting range. City Manager Bahnke stated she would need to look into it.

C. Andersen stated that concerning the Eskimo Boy statue, he had asked City Manager Bahnke to get a folder together that traces the history of the project so they could review it at the next meeting.

C. Brown stated he agrees with C. Larson comments about the shooting range. He explained that back when Sitnasauk did the land transfer with the City, that enabled the shooting range at its current

location and part of the rationale was to replace the shooting range at the Sunset location. He stated he has had conversations with previous Police Chiefs and Interim City Managers and was given assurance that yes, it was going to be open to the public once they address certain issues. He believes those conditions can be met by the Sportsman Association. He feels they need to move forward now and make it happen and he reported it has been over five years in the making.

C. Brown stated that in regards to the accumulation of letters to Nome Emergency Shelter Team (N.E.S.T), he wanted to report that Bering Straits Native Corporation didn't send a letter but also supports the effort by N.E.S.T. He reported that the President of Bering Straits Native Corporation is willing to have Bering Straits donate cash and other in-kind types of items.

C. Andersen stated that concerning the letters to N.E.S.T. he would like to see if they could find out specifically what they will support. He stated that the letters did not define what they would support and this would give them a better idea before they open up the Mini Convention Center for what kind of money and liability they are looking at.

CITIZENS REQUESTS AND GRIEVANCES

Sam Schmidt, stated he was Cadet Captain of the JROTC. He stated that this year they had a lot of funding ideas and a lot of them turned out to be dry. He stated that if they lose JROTC this year it won't be here next year. Mr. Schmidt handed out a letter to the Council that explains grant money they are receiving and additional information about the program. He stated that JROTC is wondering about funding for next year.

C. Andersen stated they received the JROTC budget from the school and he asked Mr. Schmidt to explain additional things JROTC is doing that was not part of the school's budget. Mr. Schmidt stated that they have car washes and other fund raisers and he explained that they needed to raise money for inspections. C. Andersen asked if they could make a report that explains what they are doing to raise money and where they are spending their money.

Abby Huggins, stated she was here representing N.E.S.T. and she is the Volunteer Coordinator. She wanted to thank the Council for consideration of their previous submitted request for support and she stated they have been actively seeking support from organizations as shown in the many letters included in the packet. She stated there is clear evidence that there is community support as far as a volunteer base, material and financial donations and commitment to finding solution and permanent space that they must deal with before next winter. She stated she wanted to be here to answer any questions.

C. Andersen asked about State or Federal licensing requirements. Ms. Huggins stated that she is new to this right now but will work with the City to explore those regulations and making sure they adhere to them.

C. Brown suggested Ms. Huggins explore the recovery.gov website and look under HUD or USDA to explore grant opportunities.

C. Larson asked if N.E.S.T. had a budget, she stated not at this time. He also commented that the City's insurance might prohibit overnight stays and would like the City Clerk to look into this. C. Larson asked Ms. Huggins how they propose dealing with conflicts when the Mini Convention Center (MCC) is rented out for things like wedding receptions and other activities in the community when the temperature might drop to ten below. Ms. Huggins reported that there would definitely be conflicts considering Iditarod, Christmas and Thanksgiving. She stated that knowing those occasions in advance they could probably seek out a temporary facility and communicate this effectively through radio and newspaper. C. Larson asked if the bowling alley could be an alternative place or was it the particular area of the MCC that they wanted. Ms. Huggins stated that she heard this suggestion the other day and that maybe the bowling alley is already heated but the location is not as ideal as the MCC.

C. Knodel stated that she had some of the same questions that were mentioned already and she suggested to Ms. Huggins that they get together a budget which will help when asking for money and she added that the letters of support are wonderful except nobody is very specific about what they are willing to do. She would like to see what N.E.S.T has for support first before they ask for more money. Ms. Huggins stated in the original letter it was mentioned that money could go towards hiring a part-time coordinator so there would be more organized effort as well as purchasing bedding, cots, food and cleaning supplies but there isn't a budget yet. C. Knodel suggested they present a budget before June 22nd which is the meeting that they finalize the budget.

Steve Smith, stated he was here representing the Nome Sportsmen's Association and mentioned that a letter was included in the packet which they have all seen by now. He reported that they have been missing the public shooting range for a long time and they have formed an organization with people willing to clean up and operate a range. They have a two day event scheduled for July 11 & 12 called Women on Target, a safety and shooting class, and they are requesting use of the Sunset range located at Mile 9 of the Nome Teller Road.

C. Andersen asked where they are shooting now and he confirmed with City Manager Bahnke that the City range is locked. Mr. Smith continued that it has been a problem with the turnover of Police Chief's with who has the key and who has the authority to let people in there. He stated that they do not need money, just the land, and they will be able to make improvements. He stated that they have funding for proper target boards, shooting benches and other improvements needed by the users.

Jeff Selvey, Director of NACTEC, thanked the Council for their support. He reported that seven years ago they started NACTEC with their help and support and it has been a great ride. Mr. Selvey stated that he and his family will be moving to Anchorage and that his replacement is Doug Walrath who will be in Nome July 1st. Last Monday a tour was held for the renovations which are almost done. He would like to recognize Bering Strait Native Corporation for doing a tax credit, House Bill 61, a \$200,000 tax credit to NACTEC, it is really appreciated. Thank you to everyone, it has been a lot of fun.

Tom Buzek, with Bishop Kettler's office, stated he was in town this week to give an update on Pilgrim Hot Springs. He stated a public meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11th in the Council Chamber at 7:30pm. He asked if the Council had any question and stated he was here to give them notice to the upcoming meeting.

C. Andersen asked if they are in the process of developing a plan. Mr. Buzek stated that yes they started the process with public meetings in February and there has been a lot of public comments. He is here to let people know where they are in this process.

PLANNING AND ZONING

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-09-06-01 An Ordinance Approving and Adopting the FY2010 General Fund Municipal Budget for the City of Nome, Alaska Exercising the Power to Assess, and Authorizing the Levy of a General Property Tax
~ First Reading
- B. O-09-06-02 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the FY2010 City of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget
~First Reading
- C. O-09-06-03 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the FY2010 City of Nome Special Revenue Fund Budget

~First Reading

- D. O-09-06-04 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the FY2010 City of Nome Port of Nome Fund Budget

~First Reading

- E. O-09-06-05 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve and Adopt the City of Nome FY2010 Construction Capital Projects Fund Budget

~First Reading

Hearing no objection Presiding Councilman Andersen asked the Clerk to read O-09-06-01, O-09-06-02, O-09-06-03, O-09-06-04, and O-09-06-05.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Knodel to pass O-09-06-01, O-09-06-02, O-09-06-03, O-09-06-04 and O-09-06-05 on to second reading, public hearing and final passage

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Andersen, Brown

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- F. R-09-06-01 A Resolution Setting the City of Nome Mill Rate for 2009

Hearing no objection Presiding Councilman Andersen asked the Clerk to read R-09-06-01.

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Andersen to approve Resolution R-09-06-01.

Discussion

C. Larson stated he wanted to amend the resolution.

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Brown to amend Resolution R-09-06-01 and change the mill rate to 876.

Discussion

C. Larson explained that he would like to attempt to realize the same revenue as they did last year with real property taxation. He feels that a 7 mill rate will leave them with too big of a hole in their budget.

C. Andersen stated that they probably won't be doing the sales tax exemption on food next winter either.

C. Larson stated that is something he likes and he may still bring it up next year.

C. Knodel stated that she is going to vote no because she thinks that 7 mills is a doable thing and she does not think it is prudent to have a large savings account when they could give people a break. She continued that she does not see the fuel or electricity will come down by much this winter and it is only right that they try and make it easier for the citizens of this town.

C. Brown stated that it is great to give the residents a break with the 7 mills and he feels the sales tax exemption on food has a more direct impact on the citizens as opposed to the real property taxes. He stated he would be interested to see how much of the property tax is paid by business verses individuals. He commented that Bering Straits pays 5% of the total property tax.

C. Andersen commented that the business taxes are approximately 63% of the total.

At the roll call on the amendment:

Ayes: Larson, Andersen, Brown

Nays: Knodel

The motion FAILED

At the roll call on the main motion:

Ayes: Brown, Knodel, Larson, Andersen

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- G. R-09-06-02 A Resolution of Appreciation to Jeff Selvey for his Years of Dedicated Service as Director of the Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Center ("NACTEC") and to the Community of Nome

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Larson to approve Resolution R-09-06-02.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Andersen, Brown

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

- H. R-09-06-03 A Resolution of the Nome City Council Accepting the Proposal for Design Services for the Nome Swimming Pool Mechanical Upgrades from RSA Engineering, Inc. and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the Engineer for the Services

A motion was made by C. Knodel and seconded by C. Brown to approve Resolution R-09-06-03.

At the roll call:

Ayes: Knodel, Larson, Andersen, Brown

Nays:

The motion CARRIED

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:

- The Chief of Police Search Committee met and interviewed two applicants and background checks are being conducted at this time.
- Spring Clean-up was a huge success. Want to thank the Public Works, Parks & Rec, Candace Weidler, along with all the volunteers and businesses that donated.
- There is a Port Commission meeting on Wednesday at 5:30pm.

C. Brown asked that in regards to the shooting range, what is the next step. City Manager Bahnke stated there have been discussions and interest from Spring hunters wanting to use the facility. She believes in the past there were liability issues so it was kept locked.

C. Andersen stated that the idea was that they were going to run the shooting range instead of someone coming to the City for the key.

C. Brown stated that one of the things needed was a range monitor which he thinks the Sportsman Association has.

Steve Smith stated he could answer some of these questions. Mr. Smith stated that the first order of business was to have a place to have this upcoming event in July. Then in the future they could take over the gravel pit and develop it as a shooting range. They have a funding stream and a Range Master who is Stan Piscoya. They would like to make it a public range.

The Council agreed to the use of the requested space at Mile 9 and to continue talks with the City Manger for the future plans.

C. Brown asked the City Manager about use of the pool during the summer months. There was a discussion about maintenance and that the pool needs to be drained every three years, as commented by Rick Luthi, Nome Public Schools Superintendent. City Manager Bahnke stated that the pool would be open for Summersize on July 6th. Mr. Luthi stated that future times to be open during the summer is a decision for Chip Leaper, Director of Parks & Recreation.

C. Larson stated that in reference to the agreement with the City, Police and the State Troopers of dispatch services, are there other services such as a breathalyzer that Troopers use that ought to be put into the same discussion in terms of reimbursement. Police Chief Massie stated that the breathalyzer is through the crime lab, Department of Public Safety, and he doesn't think they pay for it. He explained that the budget item was for portable testers for out on the scene and it is a different type. C. Larson was wondering if there were any other services that are shared that they are not getting reimbursed for. Chief Massie stated that the big issue is the communications and the standby communications they provide to the State Troopers, after hours and on weekends without compensation.

C. Knodel asked about Search and Rescue. C. Larson stated that this is reimbursed by the State as he understands it except for airplanes.. C. Andersen stated they are looking into this as they speak.

COUNCILMEN COMMENTS

C. Andersen stated he would like to acknowledge the road crew in the audience and it is nice to see them.

C. Brown had no comments.

C. Knodel wanted to tell everybody thank you for the clean-up and it really makes a difference when people get out and do their part. She appreciates it.

C. Larson same as C. Knodel.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT


Mayor Michels was on travel status.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Larson and seconded by C. Brown that the meeting be adjourned.

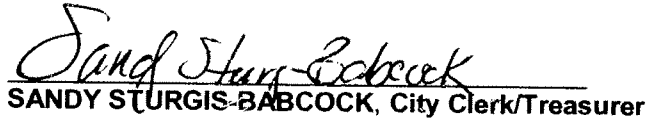
Hearing no objections the Nome City Council adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

SIGNED AND DATED the 22nd day of June, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Michels", written over a horizontal line.

DENISE MICHELS, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Sturgis-Babcock", written over a horizontal line.

SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer