

Mayor
Richard Beneville
Interim Manager
John K. Handeland
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



Nome City Council
Jerald Brown
Doug Johnson
Mark Johnson
Adam Martinson
Jennifer Reader
Meghan Sigvanna Topkok

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**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION & RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30, 2019 @ 5:30 / 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

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**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 30, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 7:02 PM by Acting Mayor Brown in Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Doug Johnson; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Meghan Topkok

Members Absent: Jennifer Reader (excused)

Also Present: John Handeland, Interim City Manager; Bryant Hammond City Clerk; Joy Baker, Port Director (telephonically); Bob Estes, Police Chief

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Sandra Medearis (Arctic News); Andrew C. Lee; Austin Ahmasuk; David Jones; Jake Kenick; Molly Kenick; Anna Ashenfelter; Zoe Okleasik; Thomas Vaden; Aaron Blankenship

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Acting Mayor Brown asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to amend the agenda by adding "A Motion Designating Jerald Brown as Acting Mayor for the period of October 30 to November 1, 2019 for the Purposes of Executing the Utility Revenue Anticipation Note."

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion, as amended, **CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 14, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes,

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the October 14, 2019 minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of October 7, 2019 from NSHC to Nome City Council re: Proposal for the Assumption of Ambulance Services in the Community of Nome.
- B. City of Nome Press Release of October 16, 2019 re: Statement of City of Nome on Clarice Hardy Claim.
- C. Letter of October 18, 2019 from NSHC to City of Nome re: October 30 and 31, 2019 Health Fair.
- D. Letter of October 21, 2019 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Transfer of Beverage Dispensary – Tourism License Application.
 - Manager Handeland explained the hotel was being sold and the transfer concerned the existing license.
- E. Letter of October 25, 2019 from Manager Handeland to Economic Development Administration re: Acceptance of Inner Harbor Launch Ramp Repair / Upgrade Project Grant.
 - Manager Handeland explained the City applied the previous fall and was currently preparing an RFP.
 - Port Director Baker explained the expected timeline of the project.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) David Jones read a letter into the record asking for an extension of the deadline to remediate his property at 209 West 2nd Ave from November 1 to December 31, 2019.
- 2) Anna Ashenfelter and Zoe Okleasik requested the City of Nome enact a ban on single use plastics, citing concern for future generations. They distributed news articles and explained they drew inspiration from a similar ban in Kauai.
- 3) Tom Vaden explained that the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department voted unanimously to oppose the NSHC letter proposing to assume ambulance services in Nome. He explained efforts to train new EMTs, the average time a volunteer serves and that most volunteers do so to help people.

Mr. Vaden, speaking as the LEPC chair, explained the LEPC would be sending an updated Emergency Operations Plan to the Council for approval in the near future.

- 4) Molly Kenick explained she was starting a youth council at Nome-Beltz, with a goal of 5 – 7 students preparing for and attending meetings in the next few months. She noted goals of addressing issues concerning open spaces, homelessness, and composting.
- 5) Jake Kenick stated he was inspired by the youth’s desire to be involved. He touched briefly on industrial hemp, noting it presented an opportunity.
- 6) Jamie Burgess formally thanked John Handeland for his work as Interim Manager, describing him as an invaluable resource. She requested an informal meeting with the Council on education and school funding sometime before entering into the budget process.

PLANNING & ZONING

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-19-10-01 An Ordinance Amending Title 7 to Determine a Sufficient Plurality and Redefining a Majority of the Votes Required to Hold Public Office in Nome, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Topkok to advance O-19-10-01.

Discussion:

- Clerk Hammond explained the purpose of the ordinance was to decrease the need for runoff elections and save the City time and money reverting to the previously defined sufficient plurality.
- Council Member Topkok requested “plus one” be added to the penultimate recital.

At the roll call:

Aye: Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- B. O-19-10-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.15 to Add a Non-Voting Youth Representative to the Council, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. M. Johnson to advance O-19-10-02.

Discussion:

- Clerk Hammond explained he took the liberty of placing Council Member Topkok as the presenter, as she had been requesting youth participation over the past several months.
- Council Member Topkok explained she envisioned a commission, though she didn’t want to overburden staff.
- Clerk Hammond explained the ordinance itself and noted that it was drafted by Attorney Cacciola and was modeled in a similar ordinance in Soldotna.

At the roll call:

Aye: Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-19-10-05 A Resolution of the City of Nome, Alaska Providing for the Issuance of a Utility Revenue Anticipation Note of the City in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$5,000,000.00 to Finance the Purchase of Diesel Fuel for the Nome Joint Utility System and Authorizing the Sale of the Note by Negotiation.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Topkok to adopt R-19-10-05.

Discussion:

- Manager Handeland explained the resolution provided for financing the Utilities annual fuel delivery and that the note would be sold to Wells Fargo on October 31, 2019. Due to a favorable rate, he explained the debt would be retired in nine months, as opposed to twelve.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-19-10-06 A Resolution Appointing Election Judges and Clerks for the 2019 Runoff Municipal Election and Setting Their Compensation.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Topkok to adopt R-19-10-06.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. Motion Designating Jerald Brown as Acting Mayor for the Period of October 30 to November 1, 2019 for the Purpose of Executing the Utility Revenue Anticipation Note.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to designate Jerald Brown as Acting Mayor for the period of October 30 to November 1, 2019 for the purpose of executing the utility revenue anticipation note.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: October 15 – October 28, 2019.
- Manager Handeland presented the Utility report.
 - Council Member Brown asked if the brakes on the three small running windmills were broken.
 - Manager Handeland explained the windmills were in service, and noted ongoing discussions concerned with using excess wind energy. He finished by requesting people to call 443-6587 to report streetlights being out or email streetlight@njus.org.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: October 15 – October 28, 2019.
- Manager Handeland presented his report, highlighting the potential for an AHFC grant funding teacher housing project.
 - Superintendent Burgess explained the grant requirements and prospects to the Council. She noted two potential sites for consideration.
 - Council Member Topkok requested administration contact King Island Native Community regarding the Front St alternative.
 - Council Member Doug Johnson expressed concern the other alternative would disrupt the people that regularly use the ice rink over the winter.
 - Council Member Brown requested climate change be a factor in the planning and design.
 - Council Member Mark Johnson suggested behind the Old Country Store and next to the hospital as alternative sites.
 - Manager Handeland summarized the current status of NVAD issues, the Two Eskimo Boys Statue, recent records requests, Public Safety Commission training and efforts to address issues at NPD. He thanked Chief Bob Estes for his year of service to the community of Nome and described the timeline of his early departure to be present for the birth of his first grand baby. He noted the NPD audit was being moved up from the week of the 11th to the week of 5th so that Chief Estes would be present.
 - Port Director Baker described recent comments made by Senator Sullivan regarding the Army Corps of Engineers dragging their feet on the Arctic Deep Draft Port project and their moving the next milestone from 2020 to December 2019. She noted that the preferred alternative 8b was rising to the top.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to extend the deadline for remediation of 209 W 2nd Ave to December 31, 2019.

Discussion:

- Council Member Doug Johnson noted the extensions the City had granted other individuals in a similar position and argued the City needed to treat everyone the same.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson

Nay:
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Austin Ahmasuk expressed his concerns over dust in Nome, arguing that Nome would have a significant air pollution problem if the dust conditions were able to be measured. He also spoke in opposition to further port expansion, arguing that the City of Nome and Alaska's congressional delegation were the primary drivers behind port development and that no national security concerns actually existed in the arctic to justify a deep draft port. He cited several reports and news sources to back up his comments.
- 2) Andrew Lee spoke in favor of the non-voting youth representative ordinance, though he noted that he was at first hesitant to support it. He asked if the nine month repayment of the fuel note would might somehow be used to forward shift the financing and obviate bonding in the future. He finished by suggested the City / School District purchase LEED plans rather than trying to modify old plans.
- 3) Aaron Blankenship suggested the Council change the plurality language in O-19-10-02, stating a true plurality was unrealistic. He ran through several scenarios to prove his point and suggested using ranked choice voting.
 - Council Member Brown suggested meeting with the Clerk to discuss specifics.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- 1) Council Member Topkok expressed concern, in light of recent public records requests, over using a personal email address that contained confidential information for public business. She requested the Council get City of Nome email addresses. She explained that would support a plastic bag ban and finished by asking if administration had followed up on Department of Public Safety Commissioner Price's offer of support to the City of Nome.
 - Manager Handeland explained he called but had not heard back from her office.
- 2) Council Member Brown also requested City of Nome email addresses for the Council. He requested a work session on a potential plastic bag ban during the winter, as well as a work session on liquor store hours. He requested administration give direction to the architect working on the teacher housing design to incorporate energy efficient design and that climate change considerations be incorporated into City of Nome plans. He requested staff look into copying the City of Soldotna's document / meeting audio delivery application.
- 3) Council Member Doug Johnson voiced support for a potential ban on single use plastics. He requested that the digital packets be indexed for ease of navigation during meetings and requested budget materials be provided in spreadsheet format.
- 4) Council Member Mark Johnson requested the Council be provided email addresses. He voiced support of a plastic ban with exceptions. He explained, that in his experience, people would refuse paper bags when offered, but rarely plastic bags. Council Member Johnson expressed his appreciation for Austin Ahmasuk expressing concerns to the Council, even though they might not agree all the time. He finished by citing a recent article predicting

another heavy snow year, and stressed the need to plan for it regarding drainage and snow removal.

- 5) Council Member Martinson echoed support for a plastic bag ban and housing for teachers. He noted that NVAD members had voiced concern to him regarding the potential for NSHC to take over the service.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: October 15 – October 28, 2019.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to enter into executive session to discuss confidential personnel matters.

The Council entered into executive session at 9:20 PM.

The Council reconvened at 9:54 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. D. Johnson that the meeting be adjourned.

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 9:54 PM

APPROVED and SIGNED this 25th day of November 2019.



RICHARD BENEVILLE
Mayor

ATTEST:



CHRISTINE PISCOYA
Deputy City Clerk