

Mayor
Richard Beneville
Manager
Glenn Steckman
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 & REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2019 @ 6:00 / 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

WORK SESSION – 6:00PM

State of the Schools Presentation

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- D. Letter of November 19, 2019 from Alaska Business Development Center to Clerk Hammond re: Volunteer Tax & Loan Program,
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- B. O-19-10-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.15 to Add a Non-Voting Youth Representative to the Council,

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- B. R-19-11-03 A Resolution to Name the Parties Qualified to Sign Depository Pledge Agreements, Orders for Payment, Warrants, and/or checks Against the City of Nome Accounts,

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**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 7:08 PM by Mayor Beneville in Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Doug Johnson (excused)

Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Christine Piscoya, Deputy City Clerk; John Bles, City Engineer

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Sandra Medearis (Arctic News); Paul G. Kosto; Jamie Burgess; Joe Fletcher; Brandy Arrington

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Beneville asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Brown to approve the agenda.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 30, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. November 7, 2019 City Council Special Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the October 30, 2019 and November 7, 2019 minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of November 4, 2019 from NSEDC to Mayor Beneville re: 2019 NSEDC Community Benefit Share.
- Council Members Brown, Mark Johnson and Reader discussed the process by which the City would decide how to use the funds. The Council scheduled a work session for Thursday December 12 at 6PM to discuss potential uses.
- B. Letter of November 6, 2019 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Alaska Commercial Company Liquor License Renewal.
- C. Letter of November 6, 2019 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Nome Liquor Store Liquor License Renewal.
- Council Member Brown requested a report from the Police Chief identifying any potential issues or violations accompany future correspondence.
- D. Letter of November 19, 2019 from Alaska Business Development Center to Clerk Hammond re: Volunteer Tax & Loan Program.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to provide \$1,500 to ABDC's Volunteer Tax and Loan Program.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. Memorandum of November 21, 2019 from Dana Handeland to Glenn Steckman re: End of Life – Servers and Storage Replacement.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the server and storage replacement purchase.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader asked if the Council should expect additional memos.
- Manager Steckman explained he didn't expect additional memos for purchases over \$40,000, but that he would keep the Council aware of progress on the project.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Joseph Fletcher discussed a recent study from UAF concerning the cause of collapse of World Trade Center 7. He discussed the murder of Khashoggi and related it to Jeffery Epstein. He finished by asking for John Handeland's and Mayor Beneville's resumes.
- 2) Paul Kosto introduced himself and summarized several articles highlighting hiring and procedural issues concerning the police departments. He discussed challenges the ambulance department currently faced. Mr. Kosto discussed snow removal and suggested putting the job out to bid to improve efficiencies.

UNFINISHED 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, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:52 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:53 PM.

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

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader asked if the ordinance addressed Mr. Blankenship's concerns.
- Council Member Topkok explained O-19-10-01 concerned the plurality needed to elect a City of Nome Official, rather than the youth representative.
- Council Members Brown and Reader noted a discrepancy between the recitals and the ordinance language.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Reader to amend O-19-10-01 by removing the last two whereas statements.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion:

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain

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

- B. O-19-10-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.15 to Add a Non-Voting Youth Representative to the Council, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:58 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:58 PM.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to adopt O-19-10-02.

Discussion:

- Council Member Topkok explained her vision, some challenges and her current work with youth. She noted that Mr. Blankenship and Clerk Hammond were supposed meet to discuss the language.
- Manager Steckman explained that Clerk Hammond had been unsuccessful in meeting with Mr. Blankenship due to conflicting conferences.
- Council Member Topkok suggested adopting the ordinance as written, noting the Council could amend the ordinance when needed.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-19-11-02 A Resolution Authorizing the City of Nome to Join the Alaska Remote Seller Sales Tax Commission for the Purpose of Developing, Implementing, and Enforcing a Remote Sellers Sales Tax Code.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-19-11-02.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-19-11-03 A Resolution to Name the Parties Qualified to Sign Depository Pledge Agreements, Orders for Payment, Warrants, and/or checks Against the City of Nome Accounts.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to approve R-19-11-03.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-19-11-04 A Resolution Concurring with the Issuance of a Right of Entry to Nome City School District.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to adopt R-19-11-04.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader asked which location has been decided on and if the housing would be dedicated only to teachers.
- Council Member Brown explained it was the area where the ice rink is currently located.
- Manager Steckman explained that the City and School District would be applying together for teacher and public safety officers.
- Council Member Mark Johnson requested that the City be cognizant of the importance of the community members that use the skating rink at this time of year.
- Superintendent Burgess explained the expected timeline of the grant application.
- Council Member Reader discussed energy efficiency and the challenges and opportunities included and asked if the cost to build would present a challenge.
- Superintendent Burgess explained that she expected the scoring to be favorable to the City of Nome.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: October 31 – November 22, 2019.
- Assistant Manager Morton presented his written report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: October 31 – November 22, 2019.
- Manager Steckman thanked the Mayor and Clerk for meeting him at the airport. He updated the Council on his first two weeks in office and encouraged the Council to use their newly set up city email addresses.
- B. Preliminary Drawings of Proposed Nome Public Schools Teacher Housing Project.

C. November 2019 Port & Harbor Update.

- Port Director Baker explained to the Council the WestGold Sheet pile dock repair project was completed under budget and that the funds the Port applied for to complete the Snake River Floats project had been awarded to the Port of Anchorage. She finished by explaining the Arctic Deep Draft Port Project had just passed a significant milestone. She noted the Corps expected to have a draft report for agency review by early January.

D. Nome Port Commission Minutes of September 19, 2019.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Emily Hofstaedter spoke about the ice rink, noting the volunteers at the ice rink stated that they did not have enough funding to operate all winter.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- 1) Council Member Brown requested a work session at the next regular meeting to discuss possible revisions to the personal property tax code.
- 2) Council Member Mark Johnson welcomed Manager Steckman. He expressed appreciation over the school update and hoped both the positive numbers and the updates continued.
- 3) Council Member Martinson welcomed Manager Steckman and looked forward to working on the property tax ordinance.
- 4) Council Member Reader requested updates on the plastic bag ban, NVAD-NSHC issues, Mr. Ahmasuk's Port concerns, Soldotna's document delivery software, liquor control ordinances, and a snow removal plan.
 - Council Member Brown explained the single use plastics ban was intended to be discussed in January or February.
 - Port Director Baker explained Mr. Ahmasuk's concerns over the national security rhetoric being used in the conversation at the federal level.
 - Council Member Brown explained that Clerk Hammond had reached out to Soldotna and was looking into it and that he would like to address the liquor control ordinances sooner rather than later.
 - Manager Steckman explained he was actively working on snow removal plan and was trying to get a handle on the issues.
- 5) Council Member Topkok explained she would be out of town for the December 9th meeting. She explained the school was starting a K – 2 language immersion program. She finished by agreeing on scheduling a work session for personal property taxes at the next meeting.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: October 31 – November 22, 2019.

- Mayor Beneville noted his recent appointment to the chair of the Alaska Conference of Mayors and that he used the position to introduce a resolution urging other municipalities to start their own public safety commissions. He finished by wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

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 9:07 PM

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 9th day of December 2019.



RICHARD BENEVILLE
Mayor

ATTEST:



BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk