

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 & RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY FEBRUARY 17 2020 @ 5:30 / 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

WORK SESSION – 5:30PM

FY 2021 Budget Priorities

Single Use Plastics Ban

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**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

The rescheduled regular meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Acting Mayor Jerald Brown in Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Adam Martinson (excused); Jennifer Reader (excused)

Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Joy Baker, Port Director (telephonic); John Handeland, Utility Manager; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager; Mike Heintzleman, Interim NPD Chief; Nickie Crowe, Acting Finance Director (telephonic)

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Diana Haecker (Nome Nugget); Thomas Vaden, LEPC Chair; Charlie and Mikey Lean; Zoe Okleasik; Sara Germain

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 27, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Topkok to approve the January 27, 2020 Minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of January 27, 2020 from Nancy Analoak to City of Nome re: Harsher Penalties for Furnishing Alcohol to Minors.
- Council Member Topkok explained she did a little research on the matter, but was unsure if the City of Nome could address Ms. Analoak's concerns.
 - Council Member Brown requested staff work with the Chief of Police and reach out to statewide organizations to look into options for the City.
- B. Letter of February 7, 2020 from Principal Thomas to Nome City Council re: Student Representative to Council.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. M. Johnson to appoint Molly Kenick as the student representative to the City Council.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. Letter of February 7, 2020 from Nome Eskimo Community to City of Nome re: Support for Needed Improvements to Public Safety in Nome.
- Council Member Topkok agreed with Director Martinson.
 - Manager Steckman explained he met with NEC on February 1 to discuss NPD and Port issues, characterizing it as a positive meeting. He explained efforts underway at NPD to address cold cases and improve services provided by NPD. He explained the increase in calls and the technology challenges facing the department and finished by highlighting a few recent challenging calls for service.
- D. Letter of February 12, 2020 from Nome Museum & Library Commission to AK DOT&PF re: Northern Region ADA Improvements.
- E. Memo of February 12, 2020 from Parks & Rec Director Leeper to Nome Common Council re: Funds Re-Allocation Request for Resolution No. R-19-01-05.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to reallocate the funds per the request.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- F. Letter of February 14, 2020 from City of Nome to National Science Foundation re: Support for Navigating the New Arctic Application.

- Council Member Topkok gave an overview on the project, explaining she knew and held the researchers in high regard. She explained the project team was primarily interested in City of Nome staff time.
- Council Member Doug Johnson noted the project was not up on the NSF website.
- Council Member Topkok explained the project was only recently proposed.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. D. Johnson to approve the letter of support to the National Science Foundation.

Discussion:

- Council Member Brown asked Council Member Topkok if she got any sense the researchers had preconceived notions of expected results.
- Council Member Topkok opined the research team had an objective perspective and that even if the City did not like the conclusions, the data set would be beneficial.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

G. City of Nome FY21 Budget Calendar.

- Manager Steckman noted May 18th as a potential conflict, as his anniversary was that week and he was hoping to spend it with his wife.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Tom Vaden, LEPC Chair, thanked the Council for supporting the LEPC through NSEDC CBS funds. He described some of the LEPC's activities, highlighting an upcoming table top exercise modelled after the 1974 storm as well as an active shooter field training exercise. He requested the City's consideration of no longer requiring the LEPC to pay for utilities at the Public Safety Building, arguing the funds could be put to better use building out the space as a state of the art Emergency Operations Center.
- 2) Charlie Lean opined the City was in good hands with Mr. Vaden as the LEPC Chair, arguing it will be hard to replace him when the time comes. Speaking as a Port Commissioner, he noted the tariff that was up for first reading later on the agenda, explaining the Commission sought to build a financial cushion in anticipation of emergency repairs, such as occurred with the WestGold dock last summer. Speaking as a Museum and Library Commissioner, he noted his surprise at AK DOT bringing up the incomplete project of designating the Nome Historic District and explained there was interest at the Commission in taking the project up again.
- 3) Zoe Okleasik thanked the Council for considering the plastic bag ban in the work session earlier. She asked that the Council start small and take into consideration people on food stamps or similar programs when looking a potential bag tax.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Memo of February 10, 2020 from Acting Finance Director Crowe to Manager Steckman and Clerk Hammond re: Additional F20 General Fund Budget Amendment Additions.
- B. O-20-01-01 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2020 General Fund Municipal Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:30 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:30 PM.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt O-20-01-01.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman noted the general fund amendment was NPD heavy, explaining what could be moved from other departments was.
- Council Member Brown noted the \$600,000 increase was reflective of the Council directive, but asked if it would allow NPD to make progress.
- Manager Steckman noted several positive developments, including body cams and increased partnerships with community and regional organizations.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to amend O-20-01-01 by increasing general fund revenue by \$25,000 and increasing general fund expenditure by \$25,000 per Acting Finance Director Crowe's memo.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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

- C. O-20-01-02 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2020 School Debt Service Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:40 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:40 PM.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Topkok to adopt O-20-01-02.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

D. O-20-01-03 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2020 Special Revenue Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:41 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:41 PM.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt O-20-01-03.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

E. O-20-01-04 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2020 Capital Projects Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:42 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:42 PM.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt O-20-01-04.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

F. O-20-01-05 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2020 Port of Nome Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:43 PM.

- Charlie Lean gave a thumbs up from the audience.

The Council reconvened at 7:43 PM.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt O-20-01-05.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- G. O-20-01-06 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2020 Port of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:45 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:45 PM.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt O-20-01-06.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-20-02-01 An Ordinance Amending Nome Code of Ordinances Title 17 to Adopt by Reference the Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Code and to Amend Chapter 17.10 to Add and Amend Definitions, Repeal Sections 17.10.080, 17.10.170(E), and 17.10.170(F), Eliminate the Annual Sales Tax License Fee, Provide for Extensions of Time for filing Returns and Repayment Plans and Amend Penalty Provisions, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Topkok to advance O-20-02-01.

Discussion:

- Clerk Hammond explained the ordinance would reconcile Nome's sales tax code with that of the Alaska Remote Seller Sales Tax Commission and provide for fairness between remote and non-remote sellers.

- Council Member Brown asked if the Clerk saw anything detrimental to local business in the ordinance.
- Clerk Hammond replied that he did not.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. O-20-02-02 An Ordinance Adopting the Port of Nome Tariff No. 16 to Replace All Existing Tariffs of the Port of Nome, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to advance O-20-02-02.

Discussion:

- Council Member Mark Johnson asked if the additional 10 percent would be placed in a dedicated equipment replacement fund.
- Manager Steckman explained the revenue goal \$150,000 per year saved towards future repairs and noted that using the Consumer Price Index for future increases was a good step.
- Port Director Baker explained the allocation wasn't automatic and would still have to be done by the Council as part of the budget process.
- Council Member Doug Johnson noted a typo on packet page 141, where winter storage for a 32 foot or under vessel cost \$5,777, which was considerably more than prices listed for larger vessels.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. O-20-02-03 An Ordinance Approving the 2019 Operations and Maintenance Budget for Nome Joint Utility System, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. M. Johnson to advance O-20-02-03.

Discussion:

- Utility Manager Handeland noted an attachment wasn't included but would be for second reading.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. O-20-02-04 An Ordinance Approving the 2019 Capital Investments Budget for Nome Joint Utility System, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to advance O-20-02-04.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- E. O-20-02-05 An Ordinance Approving the 2020 Operations and Maintenance Budget for Nome Joint Utility System, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. M. Johnson to advance O-20-02-05.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- F. O-20-02-06 An Ordinance Approving the 2020 Capital Investments Budget for Nome Joint Utility System, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Topkok to advance O-20-02-06.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- G. R-20-02-01 A Resolution Revising Priority No. 2 as Listed in Resolution R-20-01-03, Containing the City of Nome's 2020 State Legislative Priorities.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-20-02-01.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman opined there was a good chance the City of Nome could garner grant funding if the City could get the revised priorities into the State's Capsys program.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain;

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: January 28 – February 14, 2020.

- Assistant Utility Manager Ken Morton noted the IBEW agreement would be on the next Council agenda, updated the Council on the West Nome Tank Farm conveyance process, and the increase in power and water usage system wide due to temperatures being colder than the past few years.
- Manager Handeland announced that NSEDC Energy subsidy sign-ups will occur in City Hall on February 25, 26, and 27. He explained the Utility would work with people who were unable to make it in during the scheduled time and that the subsidy brings a significant amount of money into the community.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: January 28 – February 14, 2020.

- Manager Steckman presented his verbal report apprising the Council of preparations for Iron Dog racers due to Nome within the day and his discussions with Norton Sound Hospital on utilizing their cultural orientation training for City employee onboarding. He noted the trip to DC had been a productive one with a very positive tone.
- Council Member Topkok asked for clarification on cultural orientation.
- Manager Steckman explained he was upgrading the HR onboarding process and that every City employee would go through it, along with harassment training. He noted that he was working with NPD to establish better training for dispatchers.
- Council Member Brown requested future discussion over the LEPC utilities issue.
- Manager Steckman gave briefed the Council on current scheduling and technology issues being looked at to upgrade the Public Safety Building's training room.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Charlie Lean explained to the Council that the Port Commission was trying to think outside the box on ways to come up with new revenue, including a potential head tax for cruise ship passengers.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- 1) Council Member Mark Johnson stated he was happy to see the positive rapport between City administration and local news outlets. He recalled a news story from Milwaukee where a young mom was murdered, describing a statement from the police chief there on domestic violence as a decades old multi-faceted and systemic problem. He finished by explaining how nice it was to see new houses being constructed and major remodels happening.
- 2) Council Member Topkok wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day in Inupiaq and expressed her appreciation for the City of Nome's increased interest in partnering with tribes.
- 3) Council Member Brown also expressed his appreciation for the changes, the new HR onboarding process, and the implementation of the new youth representative ordinance.

4) Council Member Doug Johnson – no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: January 28 – February 14, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 8:26 PM

APPROVED and SIGNED this 24th day of February 2020.



RICHARD BENEVILLE
Mayor

ATTEST:



BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk