

**Mayor**  
Richard Beneville  
**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman  
**Clerk**  
Bryant Hammond



**Nome City Council**  
Jerald Brown  
Doug Johnson  
Mark Johnson  
Adam Martinson  
Jennifer Reader  
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**NOME COMMON COUNCIL  
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
TUESDAY MAY 26 2020 @ 7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL  
COMMENTS TAKEN AT 443-6605**

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**MINUTES  
NOME CITY COUNCIL  
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING  
May 26, 2020**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Brown; D. Johnson (telephonic); M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Topkok (telephonic)

Members Absent:

Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; John Handeland, NJUS Manager; Nickie Crowe, Acting Finance Director (telephonic); Joy Baker, Port Director (telephonic)

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter, KNOM; Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget; Dani Smithhisler; Ken Hughes

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the agenda as presented.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. May 11, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the May 11, 2020 minutes.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader noted several typos too be fixed administratively.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Office of the Governor Press Release of May 11, 2020 re: Governor Recognizes the Passing of Mayor James "Richard" Beneville.
  - Council Member Brown read the press release.
- B. Letter of May 12, 2020 From US Army Engineer District, Alaska to Manager Steckman re: Condolences on the Passing of Mayor Beneville.
- C. Letter of May 12, 2020 from Jim Adams to City of Nome re: Discontinue the Lockdown.
  - Council Member Brown read the letter.
- D. Letter of May 13, 2020 from the Alaska Congressional Delegation to Secretary of Transportation Chao re: Support of City of Nome BUILD Grant Application.
- E. Letter of May 18, 2020 from Netherlands Consul Irene Green to City of Nome re: Condolences on the Passing of Mayor Beneville.
- F. Sympathy Card from TSA to City of Nome re: Thoughts and Prayers with the Community at this Time.
- G. Sympathy Card from Ms. Carly-Bettes to the City of Nome re: One-of-a-Kind.
- H. Sympathy Card from Netherlands Consul Green re: With Sympathy.
- I. Sympathy Card from Seward City Council re: Condolences on Richard's Passing.
- J. Sympathy Card from Community Members re: Thinking of You.
- K. Card Accompanying Flowers From Tim Humes to the City of Nome.
- L. Sympathy Card from AMLJIA to City of Nome re: Sorry for your loss.
- M. Sympathy Card to City of Nome and Beneville Family re: Condolences.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- 1) Sarah Swartz criticized the City's travel restrictions, calling the paperwork invasive and daunting. She noted the travel form on the website had not yet changed and asked when it would be changing. She said the process was still not clearly defined or easy to follow and opined that it felt arbitrary and unnecessary.
- 2) Howard Farley, Jr. contended the travel restrictions were messing with local businesses. He explained the situation with one of his businesses. He noted the community knows who the vulnerable populations were and asked that the focus be placed on them rather than the general population.

- 3) Ken Hughes thanked the City for their dust control efforts, noting that any and all efforts to control the problem were appreciated. Mr. Hughes reiterated his request for a metrics-based plan to reopen. He congratulated Chief Heintzelman on the appointment and expressed support for O-20-05-02.
- 4) Dani Smithhisler opined Council Member Brown's handling of roll call votes at a previous meeting was inappropriate and insulting, noting that 65% of the comments from the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were against continued travel restrictions. She called the permit process a waste of time, saying that nobody checked to see if she had one at the airport. She suggested the City not enact requirements over and above the State's.
- 5) Judy Martinson read a letter likening entry into Nome to entry into a gulag. She contended there were no permit checks until a traveler reached Nome and the testing process in Nome was poorly executed. Ms. Martinson opined she was stunned that someone called her in when she violated her quarantine in the days that followed. She defined liberty, cited the 14 amendment and argued that Nome's quarantine restrictions were illegal. She contended the City of Nome was destroying tourism in Nome.
- 6) Miranda Musich opined the whereas statements in the emergency order were confusing and unnecessary and asked for the Council to review PSAs. She opined that reporting quarantine violations to 9-1-1 was out-of-line, saying non-emergent calls were to go to 443-5262. She asked that the sales tax rate be decreased to 5%.
- 7) Jessica Farley requested the City of Nome stop restricting travel into Nome, calling the City's process frustrating. She requested temporary employees be hired and use a Google app for the submission and administration of the travel forms. She gave details of how she envisioned the process. She finished by commending Manager Steckman for giving out his cell phone number and being available to the public.
- 8) Paula Grodworth said it was difficult to get a hold of the permit without a printer at home. She stated she had no problem with the quarantine requirements.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-20-05-02 An Ordinance of the Nome City Council, Nome Alaska Providing for a Temporary Reduction of Sales Tax for the Months of June, July, and August 2020, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:46 PM.

#### **Discussion:**

- Ken Hughes spoke in favor of a reduction in the sales tax rate, explaining it was extra support for the town's residents.

The Council reconvened at 7:47 PM.

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

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. Martinson to change "City Council" to "Common Council" for consistency throughout O-20-05-02.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. O-20-06-01 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2021 City of Nome General Fund Municipal Budget and Exercising the Power to Assess and Authorize the Levy of a General Property Tax, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-20-06-01.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader asked clarifying questions regarding the Parks & Rec and Museum budgets.
- Manager Steckman explained the figures, noting the CARES Act could alter the landscape but that allowable expenses would not likely be understood prior to passing the budget. He intended to discuss CARES Act numbers during the managers report.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. O-20-06-02 An Ordinance the Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2021 City of Nome School Debt Service Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-20-06-02.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- C. O-20-06-03 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2021 City of Nome Special Revenue Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-20-06-02.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- D. O-20-06-04 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2021 City of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-20-06-04.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- E. O-20-06-05 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2021 City of Nome Construction Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-20-06-05.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- F. O-20-06-06 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2021 City of Nome Port of Nome Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-20-06-06.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman explained the change to the structure of setting funds aside for capital improvements, noting it alleviated concern among Port Commissioners over communicating how increases in Port fees were being used.
- Council Member Mark Johnson opined that it made the intention clearer in the budget.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- G. O-20-06-07 An Ordinance to Establish, Approve, and Adopt the FY 2021 City of Nome Port of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-20-06-07.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- H. R-20-05-04 A Resolution Setting the City of Nome Mill Rate for Calendar Year 2020.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-20-05-04.

Discussion:

- Council Member Brown asked what the projected deficit would be for FY2021.
- Acting Finance Director Crowe estimated the figure at \$1,038,000.
- Manager Steckman explained the goal was not to take \$1 million out of savings and that CARES Act funds may plug some holes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- I. R-20-05-05 A Resolution Setting the City of Nome Contribution for the FY 2021 Nome School District Budget.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-20-05-05.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- J. R-20-05-06 A Resolution Approving an Employment Agreement Between the City of Nome and Michael Heintzelman for the Position of Chief of Police.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-20-05-06.

Discussion:

- Acting Chief Heintzelman said his appointment to Chief of Police would be an honor and a privilege. He gave the Council a brief update on NPD activity.
- Manager Steckman requested Council approval, noting he worked well with Acting Chief Heintzelman and looking forward to working with him in the years to come.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: May 12 - 22, 2020.

- Utility Manager Handeland updated the Council on the Bering St project progress, delivery of the River St Lift Station materials, the generator overhaul progress, new hires and advancements, the fluoridation system, and a recent water sample test that failed the first time, but passed upon retest.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: May 12 - 22, 2020.

- Manager Steckman summarized the extended hours City Hall would be open after June 1<sup>st</sup> and U Call we Haul activities over the first week of June. He noted current dust control efforts and the plan to address dust with significantly increased application of calcium chloride into the future.
- Manager Steckman advised the Council that the City Could apply for CARES act funding and needed authorization to do so.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to authorize the City Manager to apply for CARES Act funding in the amount of \$5,679,072.

Discussion:

- Council Member Mark Johnson cited a story from KTVB about communities developing grant programs to help businesses and non-profits. He requested a work session to explore doing something similar and suggested using sales tax records as an evaluation metric.
- Manager Steckman requested staff not be involved in choosing which entities get how much funds.
- Council Member Topkok encouraged the City and Tribes to work together to maximize the benefit of funds coming into the community.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

B. Emergency Order No. 2020-06 Modifying Quarantine Requirements and Travel Form Requirements for Those Entering Nome From Outside the Nome Census District.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to ratify Emergency Order 2020-06.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to amend Emergency Order 2020-06 by deleting "the process of tracing contacts [sic] of persons infected with the COVID-19 virus if all" and "were required" from section II on page 3.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader asked if Public Health wouldn't be using the City's forms, then why would it be cited in the emergency order.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked what the purpose of the permit was.
- Manager Steckman explained the form allowed for differentiation of different travelers' risk profiles and served as a vehicle to educate travelers on best practices in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to amend Emergency Order 2020-06 by deleting "or 3) is traveling to Nome for subsistence purposes" from section 7 and adding "or returning to" between "is traveling to and Nome" on page 6.

Discussion:

- Council Member Topkok suggested subsistence use remain in the order.
- Manager Steckman noted the questions received at City Hall concerning whether or not subsistence was a critical personal need and wanted to make it clear.

At the roll call:

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

Nay: Topkok

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. D. Johnson to amend Emergency Order 2020-06 by adding ", which includes subsistence purposes" after "Critical Personal Needs" in section 7 on page 6.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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

C. Bars and Restaurants Update from Building Inspector.

D. May 2020 Port and Capital Projects Update.

E. April 16, 2020 Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

F. May 7, 2020 Nome Port Commission Special Meeting Minutes.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- 1) Chris Kalerak asked that one Council Member abstain so as to prevent a tie among six members.
- 2) John Handeland took exception with singling out elders to stay home to avoid COVID-19. He explained that although people don't show up to Council meetings to tell the Council they are doing a good job there is significant support of the Council's actions in protecting the community. He noted that the Governor's health mandate didn't change anything on the ground in Nome. He appreciated the options given on quarantining and noted that Nome Eskimo Community would be holding a listening session on CARES Act funding on June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 3) Dani Smithhisler said she was still not clear on the point of the form and asked why it couldn't be something similar to the way declarations were handled upon arrival to Hawai'i. She asked how someone might handle multiple trips to Anchorage with respect to quarantine. She finished by asking where the yellow spring cleanup bags would be distributed.
- 4) Chris Kalerak opined the City Manager was too much of a dictator and that he should have answers for everything rather than excuses. He asked the Council to step up and do their job. He opined the community should be free and that he had the right to sue the City. Mr. Kalerak said the City's requirements were unconstitutional.
- 5) Ken Hughes mentioned there were a dozen serology tests available and that it would be a useful exercise.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- 1) Council Member Mark Johnson commended the City's efforts to spray down the roads and apply more calcium.
- 2) Council Member Martinson thanked Paul Kosto for his efforts to keep the flags flying on the power poles, Mike Heintzelman for sticking around and Manager Steckman and staff for their hard work.
- 3) Council Member Reader asked if resolution had been achieved on the veterinarian's questions from the last meeting. She thanked Chief Heintzelman, Peggy Darling for the Memorial Day Parade, Dalton for playing taps, and Keribeth Bahr and Bering Air for dropping the wreath.
- 4) Council Member Topkok echoed thanks to Manager Steckman and City Staff and congratulated the graduates of 2020. She lauded Nome Public Schools hosting of graduation.
- 5) Council Member Brown requested the solicitation for interim Mayor be placed in the Nome Nugget in the June 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> editions and place the appointment on the June 22 agenda .
- 6) Council Member Doug Johnson clarified that if someone was in Nome for six days and had to leave, but then came again would still need to quarantine for seven days. He finished by

asking the community to take care of each other and wear masks. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of Chief Heintzelman and Manager Steckman.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

A. Activity Report: May 12 – May 22, 2020.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Discussion of Legal Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which May have an Adverse Effect on City Finances.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. M. Johnson to enter into executive session to discuss legal matters the immediate knowledge of which may have an adverse effect on City finances.

The Council entered into executive session at 10:36 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 11:05 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 11:05 PM.

**APPROVED and SIGNED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2020



**Jerald Brown  
Acting Mayor**

**ATTEST:**



**BRYANT HAMMOND  
City Clerk**