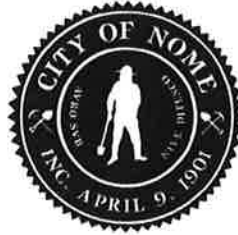


Mayor
Richard Beneville
Manager
Glenn Steckman
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



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

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**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY MARCH 30 2020 @ 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

- I. ROLL CALL
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- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
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- IV. COMMUNICATIONS
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 - C. Letter of March 23, 2020 from Village of Solomon to Mayor Beneville re: Implement a Travel Ban Into and Out of Nome,
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 - D. City of Nome FY 2021 Budget Calendar,
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- V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS
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- X. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
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- D. Email of March 23, 2020 from Manager Steckman to Nome Common Council re: Council Meeting and Other News,
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- F. Emergency Order No. 2020-02 Limiting Hours of Operation of Liquor Stores and Commercial Marijuana Establishments in Nome,
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XI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

XII. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

XIII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

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

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XV. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 30, 2020**

The rescheduled regular meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 7:01 PM by Presiding Council Member Brown in Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Doug Johnson (telephonic); Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson (telephonic); Jennifer Reader (telephonic); Meghan Topkok (telephonic)

Members Absent:

Also Present: Richard Beneville, Mayor; Molly Kenick, Youth Representative (telephonic); Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Christine Piscoya, Deputy City Clerk; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk (telephonic); Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager; Mike Heintzleman, NPD Chief; John Handeland, Utility Manager; Joy Baker, Port Director (telephonic)

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Diana Haecker (Nome Nugget); Dr. Mark Peterson (telephonic)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 9, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to approve the March 9, Regular Meeting Minutes.

At the roll call:

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

The motion **CARRIED.**

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of March 13, 2020 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Polar Bar (Beverage Dispensary) and Polar Liquor Store (Package Store) License Renewals.
- B. Letter of March 23, 2020 from Norton Sound Health Corporation to City of Nome re: Shut Down Non-Essential Air to Nome Immediately.
- C. Letter of March 23, 2020 from Village of Solomon to Mayor Beneville re: Implement a Travel Ban Into and Out of Nome.
 - Manager Steckman and the Nome Common Council discussed the current travel restrictions in place, coordination among the City of Nome and regional entities, and explained Alaska Airlines plan to decrease flights into Nome during the pandemic.
- D. City of Nome FY 2021 Budget Calendar.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- A. Email of March 22 from Darcee Perkins to Manager Steckman re: Implement a Travel Ban on All Incoming and Outgoing Passengers.
 - B. Email of March 23, 2020 from Roxanne Thurman to Manager Steckman re: Request to Immediately Close All Bars and Restaurants.
- 1) Sue Steinacher thanked the Council for their swift action in restricting travel to the region. She emphasized the inability of many households in the Villages due to the overcrowded housing situation. Citing Shishmaref's actions during the Spanish Flu Pandemic, she requested the City of Nome err on the stringent side in the hopes of preventing the virus from reaching the region.
 - 2) Gregory Smith (via email) noted that Ravn Airlines had ceased passenger operations and asked if there was a plan to support critical air travel and supply chains in the region. He expressed concern that NEST was now occupying the City's emergency shelter, asked if the City had a quarantine should a NEST-er test positive, asked if there was projected revenue shortfall, and if there were any plans for relief with respect to property tax payments and utility bills.
 - 3) Melanie Bahnke (via email) requested moving the NEST shelter from the Rec Center to the Mini Convention Center, citing the distance from Front St, the designation of the Rec Center as the City's emergency shelter, the unsupervised children playing in the area, and potential for harm NEST clients in traveling between Front St and 6th Ave.
 - 4) Doug Doherty (through Council Member M. Johnson) requested the City Manager to remove City Field from the Special Zoning District Travel Restrictions, citing the lack of commercial air traffic and residential snow machine traffic through the area.

- 5) Melanie Bahnke requested increased police patrolling in Rec Center area if her emailed requests were not possible.
- 6) Dr. Mark Peterson, at Manager Steckman's request, explained plans at Norton Sound Regional Hospital to deal with potential emergency quarantine in Nome and the Villages. He discussed the current use of the Rec Center and how it fits into NSRH plans should a field hospital become needed. He discussed current testing efforts, test kits available, PPE stock at the hospital, and the number of ventilators available in the region.
- 7) Jeanie Kost expressed concern over how the City of Nome was handling travel restrictions.
 - Manager Steckman explained the decreasing Alaska Airlines flights and protocol for meeting incoming passengers at the airport.
- 8) Sue Steinacher asked the City of Nome not underestimate the willingness of local volunteers to be called upon to assist.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: March 10 – March 27, 2020.
 - Manager Handeland noted that operations at the Utility were as normal as they could be and hoped to continue to keep up services during the pandemic. He outlined facility closures and explained efforts to contact customers by phone wherever possible. He explained recent power outage and a second energy subsidy from Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation. He explained the Utility was ready to work with customers should they have difficulties in keeping current on their Utility bills.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: March 10 – March 27, 2020.
 - Manager Steckman explained efforts to maintain normal City operations, transparency in Council meetings despite State of Alaska mandates limited gatherings, and implementing the travel permit process smoothly. He discussed coordination with the Airlines and the decision process of relocating NEST and the Day Shelter to the Rec Center.
 - Council Member Brown expressed a public concern over shortening hours of stores having the effect of concentrating people.
 - Manager Steckman discussed logistics involved in potential quarantine / isolation space within Nome and the Region and plans for transitioning the Rec Center away from NEST when NEST closes. He clarified that the City of Nome wasn't acting heavy handed with respect to Nome residents leaving City Field and going to camp.
 - Council Member Topkok asked how the City would keep employees on the payroll and if some would be working from home.
 - Manager Steckman explained how the City was handling staffing and social distancing in the work place. He explained measures taken at the Clerk's Office and how they would change if Coronavirus shows up in Nome.
 - Port Director Baker updated the Council on Port operations planning amidst coronavirus and informed the Council that the Army Corps of Engineers forward the Arctic Deep Draft Port Expansion plan to the Chief.
- B. Email of March 21, 2020 from Manager Steckman to Nome Common Council re: COVID-19 Update.
- C. Email of March 22, 2020 from Manager Steckman to Nome Common Council re: Police Update.

- D. Email of March 23, 2020 from Manager Steckman to Nome Common Council re: Council Meeting and Other News.
- E. Emergency Order No. 2020-01 Regulating Use of Nome Airport, The Nome Airport Terminal and City Field and Requiring Limited Quarantine for Persons Arriving in Nome.
- F. Emergency Order No. 2020-02 Limiting Hours of Operation of Liquor Stores and Commercial Marijuana Establishments in Nome.
- G. Emergency Order No. 2020-03 Regulating Frequency of Entry Into Grocery Stores in Nome.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Melanie Bahnke explained Kawerak's efforts at maintaining operations while protecting their employees. She explained the provision of Internet for essential employees to work from home, their Employee Health and Wellness policy to mitigate the financial impacts on employees and urged the City of Nome to consider a similar approach. She offered Kawerak's support to the City of Nome, saying the door is open.
 - Manager Steckman discussed the technologic position of the City of Nome and the organizations relative unpreparedness to handle this sort of situation.
- 2) Paul Kosto, with the Nome Chamber of Commerce, encouraged all business owners to take advantage of the SBA loan program available due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted the loans would likely turn into grants and offered his assistance to any business looking to take advantage of the program.
- 3) John Thomas expressed concern over the lack of the public laundromat in Nome.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- 1) Council Member Martinson thanked City staff and Manager Steckman for keeping the organization moving in a positive direction. He supported Ms. Bahnke's request for increased policing around the Rec Center, citing several citizens' concerns voiced to him.
- 2) Council Member Reader thanked Manager Steckman and staff for planning and working diligently for the public's safety; she thanked NSHC for their efforts, NSEDC's support through two energy subsidies, and Kawerak's offer of support. She also supported increased police patrols around the Rec Center, citing an incident in which a NEST patron walked into her daughter's home on his way to the Rec Center. She expressed concern that the NEST patrons were not following social distancing protocols.
- 3) Council Member Topkok echoed the thanks to City Staff, expressing the appreciation of prioritizing employees' wellbeing. She asked the public to practice social distancing and expressed the hope that the Community doesn't forget about our most vulnerable populations.
- 4) Council Member Brown echoed the appreciation and added GCI to the list for stepping up and broadcasting the meetings. He took issue with the means in which people were describing the homeless population, stating that most individuals do not behave in the

manner described. He noted his residence being situated between the NEST and the Day Shelter and not experiencing the issues that were being brought up. He suggested not demonizing the population.

- 5) Council Member Doug Johnson acknowledged the heavy request government was asking of the population, asking that people remember the community remember we are trying to prevent negative impacts in the future.
- 6) Council Member Mark Johnson echoed the thanks from the rest of the Council, GCI, NSHC, the City staff, Manager Steckman, and those that took the time to call or write in for the meeting.
- 7) Youth Representative Kenick expressed thanks that people were not hoarding, saying that sharing is important.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: March 10 – March 27, 2020.

- Mayor Beneville explained he was often moved emotionally thinking about the people of Nome, their history and their generosity. He noted some Elders might not have someone at home and asked that people call to check in on their Elders and family members. He expressed appreciation for Senator Sullivan in his assistance in moving the Port expansion project along.
- Manager Steckman expressed appreciation for Senator Sullivan's assistance in passing the recent federal stimulus package and explained a City staff member would be tasked with ensuring the City participating.
- Mayor Beneville noted that Clerk Hammond was out of town on medical travel and wished him well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 9:05 PM

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 27th day of April, 2020.

MARK JOHNSON
Presiding Council Member

ATTEST:

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MARK JOHNSON
Presiding Council Member

ATTEST:



CHRISTINE PISCOYA
Deputy City Clerk