



SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE
NOME COMMON COUNCIL
MARCH 17, 2020
SPECIAL MEETING
5:00 P.M – Council Chambers

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. CITIZENS' COMMENTS
- III. NEW BUSINESS

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:

Ordinance O-20-07: A Declaration of a Local Emergency Authorizing the City Manager to Take Necessary Actions to Reduce the Impact and Spread of COVID-19 Throughout the City of Nome

- IV. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2020**

The emergency special meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 5:07 PM by Mayor Beneville in Old St. Joseph's, located at Anvil City Square in Nome.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Doug Johnson (telephonic); Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; 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)

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Diana Haecker (Nome Nugget); Tom Vaden; Terry O'Malia; Paul Kosto; Rob Urbach; Barb Amarok

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Tom Vaden, speaking as Chair of the Local Emergency Planning Commission, encouraged the Council to pass the ordinance to slow the exposure rate in the community
- 2) Rob Urbach, CEO of the Iditarod Trail Committee, explained that ITC was working with a minimal crew, just enough to receive the teams and get them prepared to fly out.
- 3) Barb Amarok argued the safety and well-being of the community matters and highlighted closures at UAF-NW Campus.
- 4) Roxanne Thurman (through Manager Steckman) suggested that non-essential businesses limit the how many people are allowed in the store.
- 5) Gay Sheffield (through Manager Steckman) characterized Nome as the hub for the entire region and suggested stepping up to protect against the regional threat.
- 6) Aaron Blankenship (through Manager Steckman) asked for radical action to stop the spread of Coronavirus, arguing that history will remember the policies that focused on the greater good.
- 7) Paul Kosto, speaking on behalf of NAPA auto, he requested they be characterized as an essential business and allowed to operate via curbside pickup and continue to supply needed parts for the community's vehicles.
- 8) Charlene Saclamana requested the City declare a disaster to initiate the formal process of disaster response and recovery and give businesses in town the opportunity to potentially recoup some of their losses.

Discussion:

- Council Member Brown explained that he didn't want to be burdened with another meeting in the midst of the pandemic.
- Council Member Topkok agreed, saying it didn't mean that businesses would be closed, but would authorize the manager to take action if needed. She noted virus cases were expected to peak in April.
- Council Member Brown stated it was easier to rescind the ordinance if not needed than it would be to enact an extension or another.
- Council Member Mark Johnson explained he would be in support of the ordinance if there was a pathway to open the bars and restaurants sooner if possible.
- Manager Steckman called the situation a moving target and explained that he expected to review emergency orders at every Council meeting henceforth to discuss the status and solicit input from the Council as to how to best act to safeguard the community's interests.

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:

- Council Member Mark Johnson asked about the consequences of closing the liquor stores.
- Manager Steckman noted that closing liquor stores was a topic of discussion across the country, especially as it could result in withdrawal onset among alcoholics.
- Dr. O'Malia, recognizing that as a Baptist Preacher, he would support such efforts. Though as a doctor, he characterized closing liquor stores as a bad idea, noting that the hospital was not prepared to handle such an issue, especially in the midst of a pandemic.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

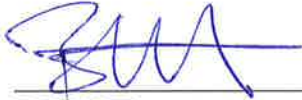
Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 6:31 PM

APPROVED and SIGNED this 8th day of June, 2020.



JERALD BROWN
Acting Mayor

ATTEST:



BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk