

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
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY FEBRUARY 24 2020 @ 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

I. OATH OF OFFICE

- A. Youth Representative Kenick
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II. ROLL CALL

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B. Public Notice of February 10, 2020 re: NSHC Parking Lot Expansion Permit Application to Army Corps of Engineers,
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VI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

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XI. CITIZENS' COMMENTSXII. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTSXIII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: February 15 – February 21, 2020,
VERBAL

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2020**

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

OATH OF OFFICE

A. Clerk Hammond Administered the Oath of Office for Youth Representative Molly Kenick.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Jennifer Reader

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

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Diana Haecker (Nome Nugget); Ken Hughes; Frank Boogles Johnson; Jake Kenick; Ray Paniataaq; Theresa Kenick; Leora Kenick; Scot Henderson; Keith Reddaway; Roxanne Thurman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 17, 2020 City Council Rescheduled Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to approve the February 17, 2020 Minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of January 15, 2020 from Nome Discovery Tours to Manager Steckman re: Concerns over conditions of City Buildings.
- B. Public Notice of February 10, 2020 re: NSHC Parking Lot Expansion Permit Application to Army Corps of Engineers.
- C. Letter February 17, 2020 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Milano's Pizzeria Liquor License Renewal.
- D. City of Nome FY 2021 Budget Calendar.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Ken Hughes welcomed Richard back.
- 2) Keith Reddaway spoke regarding the proposed bag ban. He requested the Council not pursue incremental action, rather just do so and give a few months lead time so that businesses could figure the new system out. He spoke in opposition to the imposition of a tax on bags, arguing that counting nickels for bags would be a waste of everybody's time.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-20-02-02 A Resolution Approving the Labor Agreement Between Nome Joint Utility System and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1547, Through December 31, 2022.

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

Discussion:

- Assistant Utility Manager Ken Morton noted the contract contained similar changes as the two contracts the Council saw on the January 27th agenda and gave examples.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: February 15 – February 21, 2020.

- Assistant Utility Manager Morton presented his verbal report, highlighting the recent payoff of a USDA loan, more than expected coordination needs with respect to the Bering Street Project, interview schedules for the apprentice lineman, and the turning on of the new lights at the River St Station in anticipation of Iditarod.
- Council Member Brown requested a map of the old sewer and water infrastructure that needs to be replaced.
- Assistant Manager Morton noted such information would be in the Utility's master plan.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: February 15 – February 21, 2020.

- Manager Steckman presented his verbal report, highlighting Nome Public Schools' award of a \$500,000 grant for housing design and an update on COVID-19 discussion at the City, LEPC and Public Health. He gave an update on the Finance Director recruitment and announced Jennifer Shockley, Dr. Joel Fitzgerald, and Mike Heintzleman as the three finalists that would participate in a public interview process for Police Chief. He asked how the Council would like to be involved moving forward.
- Council Member Doug Johnson expressed interest in meeting the candidates, but didn't want to short circuit a process that was in motion.
- Council Member Martinson opined that one meeting with the public and the Council involved would suffice.
- Council Member Mark Johnson agreed, requesting the resume packet and the ability for the Council to meet with the candidates in front of the public.
- Council Member Topkok requested a copy of the interview questions used by the Public Safety Commission.
- Manager Steckman suggested the candidates also meet with the Chamber of Commerce.
- Youth Representative Kenick opined a less formal session would relax the candidates for more honest answers.
- Manager Steckman explained that it was hard to relax during such a process and opined that any of the three candidates would serve the City well.
- Council Member Brown asked what the plan was to address the issues in the letter from Nome Discovery Tours. He stated he was primarily concerned with health and safety issues, explaining sturdy fixtures last longer in Nome.
- Manager Steckman explained the City had already received a quote for chair and carpet cleaning. He noted that some of the costs could be absorbed into the FY20 budget, but there would be a price tag associated with the FY21 budget.
- Council Member Mark Johnson opined that a fresh coat of paint and deep clean could go a long way.
- Council Member Doug Johnson recalled that when Jerry Krier worked for the City, he would nitpick details and call facility renters back in to finish what they missed. He opined that's the level of detail needed to keep major investments in good shape.
- Council Member Brown asked if there was a plan to address COVID-19 that the public could see.
- Manager Steckman explained preparations taken at NPD and that the City and Public Health Nursing were working on a full blown plan.
- Council Member Doug Johnson suggested the City begin a public education campaign, emphasizing hand washing and other measures to decrease risk of outbreak.

- B. Port of Nome Monthly Report / Capital Projects / Projects Update.
- Port Director Baker gave an update on the Port Modification Feasibility study, explaining there were a few meetings with Tribes later in the week. She noted the FEMA project repairing the Cape Nome Jetty damaged in the 2011 storm was finally complete as FEMA was now processing the final payment.
- C. January 16, 2020 Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Roxanne Thurman expressed concerns that Elders could no longer watch Council meetings after GCI had discontinued their practice of airing Council meetings on the scanner channel. She requested the City let businesses figure out the logistics of operating without plastic bags. She opined that taxes do not cut down use and asked the City not use such legislation.
 - Mayor Beneville requested that Manager Steckman assist him in writing a letter voicing her discontinued broadcast concerns to GCI.
 - Manager Steckman explained the City was looking at different options to stream through its website.
 - Council Member Mark Johnson suggested reaching out to former Nome City Clerk Bob Walsh at GCI.
- 2) Ken Hughes opined that he who governs less, governs best and suggested using a public education campaign instead of using legislation.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- 1) Council Member Topkok expressed excitement for the seating of the youth representative to the Council.
- 2) Youth Representative Kenick expressed excitement, stating she has lots of ideas that will benefit the town.
- 3) Council Member Brown welcomed Ms. Kenick.
- 4) Council Member Doug Johnson welcomed Ms. Kenick.
- 5) Council Member Mark Johnson welcomed Ms. Kenick and stated that he was impressed with the candidates as well as the interview process, opining the City was in a positive position to move forward.
- 6) Council Member Martinson welcomed Ms. Kenick.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: February 15 – February 21, 2020.
- Mayor Beneville thanked everyone for the support and visits he received while in the hospital, noting that the Governor visited him in the hospital for 20 minutes or so one

day. He opined the trip to DC went well and that he was on the mend, though writing was still difficult.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 8:00 PM

APPROVED and SIGNED this 9th day of March, 2020.



RICHARD BENEVILLE
Mayor

ATTEST:



BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk