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 DECEMBER 9, 2019 @ 5:30 / 7:00 PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL

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# XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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# MINUTES NOME CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 9, 2019

The regular meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 7:06 PM by Mayor Beneville in Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

# ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Jerald Brown; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Jennifer Reader; Meghan

Topkok (telephonic 7:09-7:41)

Members Absent:

Doug Johnson (excused)

Also Present:

Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Joy Baker,

Port Director (telephonic)

In the audience:

Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Sandra Medearis (Arctic News); Andrew Lee;

Ken Hughes; Anna Ashenfelter; Jake Kenick; Molly Kenick; Austin

Ahmasuk; Brandy Arrington; Wayne Arrington; Paul G. Kosto

## **OATH OF OFFICE**

A. Clerk Hammond administered the Oath of Office for Police Officer Austin Martino.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Beneville 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.

At the roll call:

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

Nay: Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 25, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the November 25, 2019 Minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

#### Abstain:

#### The motion **CARRIED**.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Letter of November 12, 2019 from AK DOT&PF to Mayor Beneville re: Nome Bering Street Rehabilitation.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the temporary construction easements required to complete the Nome Bering Street Rehabilitation project.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Reader; Brown; M. Johnson

Nay: Abstain:

#### The motion CARRIED.

- B. Letter of November 19, 2019 from Economic Development Administration to ex-manager Handeland re: Nome Inner Harbor Launch Ramp Repair Project.
  - Port Director Baker described the project, its funding, and the status of the RFP about to be released. She noted that she expected the work to be performed during summer 2020.

## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

1) Molly Kenick suggested the Council tax alcohol and marijuana by potency as a means to encourage lower consumption. She also suggested the use of signup sheets in bars to be able to track the consumption of alcohol and potentially cigarettes.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

A. R-19-12-01 A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a 2019 Ford Expedition from Kendall Ford Lincoln of Anchorage for the Nome Police Department.

A motion made C. Reader and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-19-12-01.

## Discussion:

- Council Member Brown asked if the vehicle had already been purchased.
- Manager Steckman explained the vehicle had been delivered and was in use. He explained that staff had assumed that since the vehicle had been budgeted and the budget was approved by the Council that it didn't need a resolution; and that there wasn't harmful intention in the purchase. He explained that department heads don't see their budgets in real time, though staff were working on putting a clearer process in place.

At the roll call:

Aye: Reader; Brown; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

#### Abstain:

#### The motion **CARRIED**.

B. R-19-12-02 A Resolution Designating Charles ("Chip") Leeper as Acting City Manager for the Period December 20, 2019 to January 5, 2020.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-19-12-02.

#### Discussion:

 Manager Steckman explained he would be available via phone were the Council to call a meeting.

At the roll call:

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

Nay: Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

C. R-19-12-03 A Resolution Supporting the Prioritized Strategies of the Nome Coordinated Transportation Plan to be Submitted to the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-19-12-03.

#### Discussion:

Council Member Reader expressed the hope for further coordination with the community.

At the roll call:

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

Nay: Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: November 26 December 6, 2019.
  - Assistant Manager Morton presented his verbal report, noting the operators' union agreement will be forthcoming, an air quality audit, ongoing work on street lights, and various leaks and freeze-ups addressed.
  - Council Member Reader asked why NJUS was a separate board and not a commission.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: November 26 December 6, 2019.
  - Manager Steckman presented his written report. He noted beginning outreach on a potential plastic bag ban ordinance and expressed the desire to develop executive goals

- with the Council after New Years. He alerted the Council and public to potential closures on Seppala Dr. due to DOT test borings. He discussed the process of approving exempt employee contracts.
- Council Member Reader suggested developing a policy that covers all employees, including exempt employees.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked about the status of the Finance Director and Police Chief hiring process, as well as the NPD audit by Russell Consulting.
- Manager Steckman explained the application response hadn't been as good as desired, but that the positions will be re-advertised as needed. He noted the possibility of needed to increase the benefits package for the Police Chief and that there was considerable turnover among Finance Directors across the state. Manager Steckman explained he expected the NPD audit report back in six to eight weeks.

#### CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No Comments.

# **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

- 1) Council Member Mark Johnson no comments.
- 2) Council Member Martinson no comments.
- 3) Council Member Reader no comments.
- 4) Council Member Brown no comments.

## MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 26 December 6, 2019.
  - Mayor Beneville discussed the Discovery Channel using White Alice as the subject of an episode of a show *Mysteries of the Abandoned*, the upcoming visit of Alaska National Guard Adjutant General Saxe, and the great turnout for Breakfast with Santa. He Thanked Executive Assistant Cheryl Thompson for her work in making the Christmas Extravaganza a success. Mayor Beneville finished by discussing the resolution he presented to the Alaska Conference of Mayors urging municipalities to follow Nome's example in establishing a public safety advisory commission.
- B. Planning Commission Seat "E."
  - Mayor Beneville appointed Greg Smith to Nome Planning Commission Seat E.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to confirm Mr. Smith's appointment.

At the roll call: Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Brown Nay: Abstain:

The motion CARRIED.

# **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 8:01 PM

APPROVED and SIGNED this 13th day of January 2020.

RICHARD BENEVILLE

Mayor

ATTEST:

**BRYANT HAMMOND** 

City Clerk