

Mayor
Richard Beneville
Interim Manager
John K. Handeland
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 August 12, 2019 @ 5:30 / 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

WORK SESSION

Nome Reentry Coalition Report Discussion

Personal Property Taxation / Exemptions

I. **ROLL CALL**

II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. July 22, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes,
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- B. July 24, 2019 City Council Special Meeting Minutes,
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IV. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Memo of July 29, 2019 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Untimely Filed Senior Tax Exemption Form,
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- B. Memo of August 2, 2019 from Museum Director Chan to Manager Handeland re: Carrie M. McLain Museum Featured in *Alaska Beyond* Magazine,
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- C. Memo of August 4, 2019 from Manager Handeland / Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Potential Property Tax Adjustments,
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- D. Press Release of August 9, 2019 re: SB 2002 Veto Summary,
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- E. Email of August 5, 2019 from Heidi Emberly to Clerk Hammond re: Summer of Heroes Award Recipient Ethan Ahkvaluk,
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V. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. 0-19-08-01 An Ordinance Amending Nome Code of Ordinances Chapter 17.10 to Clarify Remote Sellers' and Marketplace Facilitators' Obligation to Collect and Remit Sales Tax,

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IX. UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: July 23 – August 9, 2019,
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X. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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XI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

XII. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

XIII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: July 23 – August 9, 2019,
VERBAL

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Discussion of Confidential Personnel Matters,
VERBAL

XV. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2019**

The 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: Jerald Brown; Doug Johnson; Mark Johnson; Jennifer Reader; Meghan Topkok

Members Absent: Adam Martinson (Excused)

Also Present: John Handeland, Interim City Manager; Bryant Hammond City Clerk; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager; Joy Baker, Port Director

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Diana Haecker (Nome Nugget); Rhonda Schneider; Ralph Ray; Gay Sheffield; Hannah Newton; Lisa Ellanna; Bridie Trainer; Ivory Okleasik; Trinh Johnson

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. D. Johnson to approve the agenda.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 22, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. July 24, 2019 City Council Special Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. M. Johnson to approve the July 22, 2019 and July 24, 2019 minutes.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader noted one minor edit to handle administratively.

At the roll call:

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

The motion **CARRIED.**

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Memo of July 29, 2019 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Untimely Filed Senior Tax Exemption Form.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to authorize the Clerk to accept the application as if timely filed.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader requested future memos state a reason for the application being filed late.

At the roll call:

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

The motion **CARRIED.**

- B. Memo of August 2, 2019 from Museum Director Chan to Manager Handeland re: Carrie M. McLain Museum Featured in *Alaska Beyond* Magazine.
- C. Memo of August 4, 2019 from Manager Handeland / Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Potential Property Tax Adjustments.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adjust the Kowchee (001.301.27), Muktoyuk (001.151.24), Saclamana (001.211.17) and Trigg (001.291.40) tax bills as recommended by the memo.

Discussion:

- Council Member Brown declared a conflict of interest, explaining that he paid his mother in law's tax bill to avoid the property being listed on the foreclosure list.
- Council Member Mark Johnson thanked staff for cleaning up the issue.

At the roll call:

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

The motion **CARRIED.**

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to adjust the Engstrom (001.151.36) tax bill as recommended in the memo.

Discussion:

- Council Member Brown requested the Clerk facilitate a conversation between the building inspector and the assessor about permit completion and valuation.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

D. Press Release of August 9, 2019 re: SB 2002 Veto Summary.

E. Email of August 5, 2019 from Heidi Emberly to Clerk Hammond re: Summer of Heroes Award Recipient Ethan Ahkvaluk.

- Council Member Brown read a prepared statement from Mayor Beneville congratulating Ethan.
- Heather Marron of Alaska Communications summarized Ethan Ahkvaluk's achievements and presented him with the Summer of Heroes Scholarship.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Lisa Ellanna thanked Council Members Brown and Topkok for participating in the recent Undoing Racism workshop and spoke about the meeting with the Kellogg Foundation in June. She recognized the City Council for reconsidering the City's contribution to the NEST program.
- 2) Trinh Johnson asked what was going on with Nome and described an increase in crime contending that Nome was no longer safe. She asked what the Police Department was doing about it. Ms. Johnson described a break-in at Nome Outfitters and argued she had to track down the perpetrator herself after her son was arrested as the prime suspect. She requested an apology from the arresting officer as well as the hiring of a new police chief and the hiring of new officers.
- 3) Emily Hofstaedter asked if Public Safety Advisory Commission applications were still being accepted and what was happening with the Animal Control position.
 - Council Member Brown explained the current status of the applications.
 - Manager Handeland explained the current status of Animal Control.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 0-19-08-01 An Ordinance Amending Nome Code of Ordinances Chapter 17.10 to Clarify Remote Sellers' and Marketplace Facilitators' Obligation to Collect and Remit Sales Tax, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to advance O-19-08-01.

Discussion:

- Council Member Brown requested the City Attorney review the language of 17.10.170(e) to ensure it had the intended affect.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: July 25 – August 9, 2019.

- Assistant Manager Morton presented his verbal report highlighting the restoration of the PCE program, participation in the Kawerak energy planning process, replacement of utility poles, and the removal of genset #6 by Raven Recycling.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: July 25 – August 9, 2019.

- Manager Handeland presented his written report.
- Council Member Reader asked about the status of background checks for the Public Safety Advisory Commission and the hiring of a new planner.
- Manager Handeland explained the issues the City encountered in using the Alaska Public Safety Information Network for the checks and noted he would be meeting with the Mayor upon his return from the Summer AML conference. He explained the planner will continue working on the Comprehensive Plan and several small grants until October. He explained the City had retained Jenny Evans for grant writing, but unfortunately the relationship did not blossom and the City was now using the services of Noele Weemes in Unalakleet.
- Council Member Topkok expressed frustration that the Public Safety Commission was not be treated as a high priority like it should be.
- Manager Handeland noted that commission applications can be accepted on a rolling deadline.
- Council Member Brown expressed frustration for both the Mayor and himself and noted the Mayor had authorized him to seat applicants tonight.

B. Port & Harbor Report/Projects Update – August 2019.

- Port Director Baker updated the Council on the recent back to back cruise ship calls at the Port. She noted the expected weather over the next few days may affect the ongoing emergency dock repairs. She complimented Dave Barron on his work ethic explaining how great an employee he is for the City and suggested the City also look into Lorraine Cordova for grant writing, noting her experience with the Corps of Engineers.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Rhonda Schneider thanked the Council for the earlier work session. She explained the Nome Community Center and the Community of Nome needed their support.
- 2) Gay Sheffield asked if anyone has contacted the Cities of Diomedes and Golovin about online sales tax collection issues.

- 3) Lisa Ellanna referenced discussions of the City hiring contracted services and asked if the City had a procurement process and if they used it.
 - Manager Handeland replied yes and yes, noting the threshold of \$40,000.
- 4) Bridie Trainer stated she was looking forward to NEST funding being restored. She explained the economy of Nome was driven by the tribes and the City of Nome had a responsibility to support them.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- 1) Council Member Doug Johnson – no comments.
- 2) Council Member Mark Johnson – no comments.
- 3) Council Member Reader congratulated Ethan Ahkvaluk noting he's been a good model. She asked if the City was working on an answer to Ms. Sheffield's question on sales tax. Council Member Reader requested an update on the NSHC Day Shelter and to revisit the issue of discharging firearms within city limits.
 - Manager Handeland explained the tax issue is still being researched and explained an analogous situation on Washington State. He explained he would follow up with Lance Johnson concerning a day shelter update and that the City Attorney was working on a set of ordinances that would address intoxication issues.
- 4) Council Member Topkok noted she would be calling in to the August 26th meeting. She thanked Council Member Brown for his attendance at the Undoing Racism workshop and invited members of the Council to a roundtable on murdered and missing indigenous people next Monday. She requested Council Members coordinate attendance with the Clerk so as to avoid Open Meetings Act issues.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. Reader to appropriate \$25,000 in funding for the NEST program.

Discussion:

- Council Member Mark Johnson asked for a formal request.

At the roll call:

Aye: Reader; Topkok; Brown

Nay: D. Johnson; M. Johnson

Abstain:

The motion **FAILED**.

- 5) Council Member Brown congratulated Ethan Ahkvaluk. He explained the Undoing Racism workshop was a great experience and encouraged everyone to attend. He opined that the firearms issue was settled, though noted he was only one member of six.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: July 25 – August 9, 2019.

- Acting Mayor Brown explained that he would use the authority as Acting Mayor to seat the Public Safety Commission and that Mayor Beneville had authorized him to do so. He appointed the following:

3 year seats

- Keith Morrison
- Lisa Ellanna
- Maureen Koezuna

2 year seats

- Miranda Musich
- Traci McGarry
- Carol Piscoya

1 year seats

- Greg Smith
- Jana Hoggan
- Shauntel Bruner-Alvanna

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. Reader to confirm the Acting Mayor's appointments.

Discussion:

- Council Member Doug Johnson expressed concern that the City was bending the rules to fit the situation, rather than following its own process.
- Council Member Topkok opined the process had taken too long and that the City needed to prioritize the seating of the commission.
- Council Member Reader argued the Acting Mayor's appointment didn't fit the cultural and ethnic makeup of the community and should not be confirmed. She asked that potential members continue to apply.
- Council Member Brown explained that three seats would be open in a year and the commission should be seated and moving forward.

The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to enter into executive session to discuss confidential personnel matters.

The Council recessed into executive session at 9:09 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 10:15 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council
adjourned at 10:15 PM

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 26th day of August 2019.



RICHARD BENEVILLE
Mayor

ATTEST:



BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk