

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
WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY JULY 22, 2019 @ 6:00 PM / 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

WORK SESSION 6:00 PM

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**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 22, 2019**

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.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent:

Also Present: Richard Beneville, Mayor; John Handeland, Interim City Manager; Bryant Hammond City Clerk; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager; David Barron, Building Inspector; Julie Liew, Finance Director

In the audience: Davis Hovey (KNOM); Sandra Medearis (Arctic News); Ken Hughes; Shane & Dani Smithhisler; Paul G. Kosto; Steve Smith; Andrew Lee

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. Brown 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. July 8, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to approve the July 8, 2019 minutes.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader noted two minor edits to handle administratively.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of July 17, 2019 from Nome Kennel Club to City of Nome re: City Sponsorship of Dog Fair on August 24th.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to waive the rental fee for the Nome Kennel Club Dog Fair on August 24th 2019.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader asked about if there was an existing policy in place and what proper protocol was in this situation.
- Clerk Hammond explained protocol and how the request did not neatly fit into the existing policy.
- Manager Handeland recommended granting the request, noting it would be worthwhile.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. Email of July 18, 2019 from Lisa Ellanna to City of Nome re: Invitation to Undoing Racism Workshop.
- Council Member Topkok explained the workshop and invited members of the Council to attend.
 - Manager Handeland explained the invite only status of the workshop made a potential quorum problematic and recommended against the entire Council attending, due to potential open meetings act issues.
 - Council Member Topkok noted that the event could potentially accommodate walk ins from the public, but requested that attendees attend all three days of the workshop.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

PLANNING & ZONING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. 0-19-06-09 An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Municipal Property by Land Use Permit to Nome Sportman Association for Sunset Firing Range, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:31 PM.

Discussion:

- Manager Handeland explained the current status of the permit and requested the Council postpone action until the August 26th meeting.
- Steve Smith explained the current NSA proposal as well as the previous permit granted ten years ago.
- Council Member Brown asked if delaying action for a month would present the NSA with any difficulties.
- Paul Kosto opined that a one year extension to the permit wouldn't be enough for some of the larger grants the organization was eyeing, but that they would apply next year when a longer term agreement was in place.

The Council reconvened at 7:36 PM.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Reader to postpone O-19-06-09 until the August 26, 2019 Regular Meeting.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-19-06-01 A Resolution Approving a Contract Between the Nome Chamber of Commerce and the City of Nome for Operation of the Nome Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-19-06-01.

Discussion:

- Manager Handeland noted the contract would remain the same except the total amount paid by the City of Nome would increase to \$200,000 for the year.
- Council Member Mark Johnson declared a conflict of interest, as he serves on the Chamber Board.
- Council Member Topkok asked if the dates needed to change.
- Manager Handeland explained that they did not, as the contract would be retroactive to July 1.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain: M. Johnson

The motion **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-19-07-02 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Bering Straits Development Company (BSDC) for the Anvil City Science Academy Toilet Room Renovation Project.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-19-07-02.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: July 9 – July 19, 2019.

- Assistant Utility Manager Morton presented his written report highlighting potential impacts to upcoming bills due to PCE not currently being funded by the State. He estimated the average household would see a \$65 increase without PCE.
- Council Member Topkok requested the Utility reach out to the community and let them know so the bill won't come as a shock.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: July 9 – July 19, 2019.

- Manager Handeland presented his verbal report, beginning with a recap of DCCED Commissioner's visit to Nome to discuss opportunity zones. He noted vehicle maintenance contracts had been renewed for the next year and that the City was in discussions with King Island Native Cooperation about placing benches on their River St lot. Manager Handeland gave a brief update on the fire at Old St. Joseph's park and discussions with the Catholic Church about improving access to the park off Steadman and Fourth.
- Council Member Brown asked about the status of seating the Public Safety Commission and requested a copy of NPD's Body Cam policy.
- Mayor Beneville explained the City received a number of applications and was performing background checks.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked what the City's plan was for heavy equipment maintenance over the winter.
- Manager Handeland explained that snow removal agreements were already going out and that he would return with a maintenance plan at the next meeting.
- Port Director Baker noted Cook Inlet Tug & Barge was looking to homeport an assist tug in Nome and introduced Jay Sterne and Wendy Chamberlain.
- Jay Sterne updated the Council on the federal legislative process concerning the Arctic Deep Draft Port and gave road map for the next big hurdles.
- Wendy Chamberlain updated the Council on the state legislature and the potential impacts arising from Governor Dunleavy's budget vetoes and subsequent disagreements in the legislature.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Christian Broce petitioned the Council for relief from taxes arising from a vessel he sold in 2017. He explained the process of appealing the valuation in 2019, but when he approached the Clerk about the same issue for 2018, he was referred to the Council.
 - Clerk Hammond explained the City's perspective and the process followed, noting the Clerk had no authority to grant relief to Mr. Broce in this circumstance.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to alleviate the 2018 taxes, penalties, and interest incurred by the fishing vessel he sold in 2017.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- 2) Ken Hughes offered a branding strategy for the City of Nome, calling the City "America's qanichaq" or "America's Arctic Entry."
- 3) Randy Harper thanked everyone present for devotedly working towards the betterment of Nome, explaining he was excited for the future of Nome.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- 1) Council Member Mark Johnson thanked John Smollen for his work session presentation on public private partnerships and requested a longer work session to discuss the options more in depth.
- 2) Council Member Martinson – no comments.
- 3) Council Member Reader requested a special meeting to discuss the City Manager search on Wednesday July 24 at 5:30 PM. She requested an update concerning the day shelter run by NSHC.
- 4) Council Member Topkok reiterated the invitation extended to Council Members to attend the Undoing Racism workshop, noting Ms. Pungowiyi had requested RSVPs by July 23rd. She expressed concern over the potential impacts of growing arctic shipping to the arctic ecosystem and asked how the community could be more eco-friendly with respect to port development. Council Member Topkok finished by requesting a list of all past council members.
- 5) Council Member Brown also expressed concern over ship traffic impacts to the local environment. He noted he was happy the Public Safety Commission was moving forward.
 - Manager Handeland noted some of the developments planned and existing maritime standards that facilitate the handling of waste on-shore in Nome rather than in the

Bering Strait. Mr. Smollen discussed the Polar Code, characterizing it as an incentive to come to shore.

- 6) Council Member Doug Johnson thanked Jay Sterne, Wendy Chamberlain, and John Smollen for their presentations and also expressed concern over cruise ships negatively impacting the environment of the Bering Strait.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: July 9 – July 19, 2019.

- Mayor Beneville thanked Jay Sterne, Wendy Chamberlain, and John Smollen for their work on behalf of the City of Nome. He recognized Representative Neil Foster for his support of the City of Nome and the region and thanked him for his efforts in the legislature. He reiterated the concern for negative impacts arising from cruise ship traffic and thanked Robin Johnson for her work in coordinating events for the Maasdam cruise ship, even passengers were not able to come ashore.

B. Port Commission Seat "E" Appointment.

- Mayor Beneville reappointed Russell Rowe to Seat E of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to confirm Mayor Beneville's appointment.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Brown to enter into executive session to discuss confidential personnel matters.

The Council recessed into executive session at 9:14 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 9:21 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 9:21 PM

APPROVED and SIGNED this 12th day of August 2019.


JERALD BROWN
Acting Mayor

ATTEST:


BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk

