

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, APRIL 8, 2019 @ 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

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VERBAL

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**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 8, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 7:01 PM by Mayor Richard 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

Members Absent: Doug Johnson

Also Present: Richard Beneville, Mayor; John Handeland, Acting City Manager; Bryant Hammond City Clerk; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Sandra Medearis (Arctic News); Lisa Ellanna; Darlene Trigg; Ken Hughes

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. M. Johnson to approve the agenda.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Reader to approve the March 25, 2019 minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of March 25, 2019 from Charles Reader to City of Nome re: Personal Property Tax Structure.
- Council Member Reader explained she had several pages of questions, such as why the exemption on airplanes was tabled in 2014 but never brought back up.
 - Mayor Beneville suggested a work session on taxation given the complexity of the subject.
 - Following discussion, the Council decided it would hold a work session on taxation and revenue Monday June 17th.
- B. Memorandum of March 28, 2019 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Determination of Untimely Filed Tax Exemption Applications.
- Council Member Reader asked why the requests were late.
 - Clerk Hammond noted one application was given to the previous City Manager several months prior to the deadline and not included with the rest. The other was just late.
 - Council Member Brown recalled issues with seniors who should be exempt on the foreclosure list.
 - Council Member Mark Johnson requested exploring a mechanism to ensure eligibility but eliminate the need for seniors to apply yearly.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Martinson to authorize the Clerk to accept Mr. Gilder's application for senior tax exemption as timely filed.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Martinson to authorize the Clerk to accept the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' application for exemption as timely filed.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. Letter of April 2, 2019 from Nome Preschool to Nome Common Council re: Funding Request for 2019/2020 School Year.
- Council Member Brown expressed shock at the amount requested but explained the need was there. He suggested addressing the issue during the budget process.
 - Council Member Reader explained that the Preschool Manager had applied for a grant and would hopefully not need the requested amount.

- D. Flyer re: The Winter Bear, Play on April 15, 2019 at Nome Elementary School.

E. FY2020 City of Nome Budget Calendar.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Emily Hofstaedter expressed concern over the comments in the ACLU communication referring to the Council communicating through the press. She explained she reported the meetings as her job required.
- 2) Ken Hughes spoke in support of funding the Nome Preschool, arguing every dollar is well spent.
- 3) Sandra Medearis spoke in support of funding early education as experiences prior to the age of five are very influential.
- 4) Lisa Ellanna requested the Council consider adopting the amendments to the Public Safety Commission ordinance recommended by the ACLU. She recalled the timeline of meetings and opined that City Attorney Chandler confused the process.
- 5) Darlene Trigg spoke in favor of adopting the ACLU-suggested amendments, arguing they were an opportunity to move the community forward and build relationships.

PLANNING & ZONING

A. Swanberg Dredge Existing Conditions Survey & Stabilization Plan.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. O-19-03-01 An Ordinance Amending Section 17.20.020 Exemptions, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to postpone O-19-03-01 to the April 22, 2019 Regular Meeting.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

A. R-19-04-01 A Resolution Approving a Contract with Altman, Rogers & Co. for Audit Services for the Fiscal Year 2019.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-19-04-01.

Discussion:

- Council Member Brown asked if administration put the contract out to bid.
- Manager Handeland answered that they did not, explaining that in comparison to other firms in the state, Altman, Rogers & Co. were reasonable. He continued to explain their sampling design, the state of the industry in Alaska and the firm was able to maintain an institutional familiarity with Nome while using different staff to keep an arm's length during the field work.
- Council Member Brown suggested revisiting the subject of putting the contract out to bid in the fall.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: March 26 – April 5, 2019.

- Assistant Utility Manager Morton presented his written report, highlighting NJUS' launch of a mobile app, allowing customers to track their accounts on their phones.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: March 26 – April 5, 2019.

- Manager Handeland presented his verbal report, noting the current status of the ACSA Bathroom project and explaining he expected a negotiated contract at the next meeting. He recapped a recent meeting with the Coast Guard discussing issues with potential international policy implications. Manager Handeland explained the City Manager position had been re-advertised, he gave an update on the Planning Commission's 2030 Comprehensive Plan progress, noted the City and NJUS were still working towards a faster internet connection, and reminded the Council of upcoming work sessions on the 16th and the 17th.
- Council Member Mark Johnson requested reaching out to City Manager candidates that submitted applications during the fall.

B. Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal Software Proposal.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Reader to approve the purchase of MARS computer assisted mass appraisal software.

Discussion:

- Clerk Hammond answered Council questions, explaining the software and the justification for purchasing it, stating that he felt it was in the community's best interest moving forward.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

N/A

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- 1) Council Member Mark Johnson – no comments.
- 2) Council Member Martinson – no comments.
- 3) Council Member Reader stated she would like to continue the conversation concerning the discharge of firearms at the Port of Nome, requesting a joint work session on the topic with the Port Commission. She requested a list of upcoming meetings on meeting agendas so that the Council would all be on the same page. She concluded by saying that she did not like being the only council member to show up to the Planning Commission work session on the comprehensive plan.
- 4) Council Member Topkok agreed with Council Member Reader, stating that a future work session would be a good idea to continue the conversation. She requested that city staff invite specific people, particularly from the Alaska Native subsistence hunting community, as the issue was brought to light by a potential marine mammal hunt.
- 5) Council Member Brown – no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT


- A. Activity Report: March 26 – April 5, 2019.
- Mayor Beneville gave his perspective on Governor Dunleavy's recent visit, saying the atmosphere reminded him of the 1960s. He explained his upcoming travel advocating for the Port of Nome and Port Director Baker's work on Port simulations in Vicksburg, MI as a part of the deep draft port planning.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 8:58 PM

APPROVED and SIGNED this 22nd day of April 2019.


RICHARD BENEVILLE
Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BHAMMOND', is written over a horizontal line.

BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk