

**Mayor**  
Richard Beneville  
**Manager**  
Tom Moran  
**Clerk**  
Bryant Hammond



**Nome City Council**  
Stan Andersen  
Jerald Brown  
Doug Johnson  
Mark Johnson  
Adam Martinson  
Lew Tobin

102 Division St. • P.O. Box 281  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
Phone (907) 443-6663  
Fax (907) 443-5345

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018 @ 5:30/7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

**Work Session, 5:30:**

Discussion on Preliminary Assumptions for Building the FY 2019 City of Nome Budgets  
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**Regular Meeting, 7:00:**

I. ROLL CALL

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III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-18-03-01 An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Municipal Property by Lease to the Federal Aviation Administration (Newton Peak),  
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VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-18-04-02 An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Municipal Property by Lease to the Federal Aviation Administration (Nome Municipal Cemetery),  
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- B. O-18-04-03 An Ordinance Granting a Vacation of Right-of-Way Application in Block 96,  
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- C. R-18-04-01 A Resolution Supporting the Graphite One Project on the Seward Peninsula in Northwest Alaska,  
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- D. R-18-04-02 A Resolution Requesting that the State of Alaska Consider Raising the Speed Limit on Seppala Drive,  
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- E. R-18-04-03 A Resolution Supporting HJR 33 and Requesting that the United States Coast Guard Authorize a Seasonal Forward Operating Location in Nome,  
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VIII. UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: April 9 – April 20,  
**VERBAL**

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: April 9 – April 20,  
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X. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

XI. COUNCILMEN'S COMMENTS

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: April 9 – April 20,  
**VERBAL**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES  
NOME CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 23, 2018**

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: Stan Andersen; Jerald Brown; Doug Johnson (telephonically); Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Lew Tobin

Members Absent:

Also Present: Richard Beneville, Mayor; Tom Moran, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager; Joy Baker, Port Director; John Papasodora, Police Chief

In the audience: Sandra Medearis, *Arctic News*; Davis Hovey, KNOM; Derek McLarty; Thomas Riley; Tom Kosloski; Scot Henderson; Pat Hahn; Jay Sterne

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

A motion was made by C. Tobin and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the agenda as presented.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tobin;  
Andersen

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. April 9, 2018 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Tobin and seconded by C. M. Johnson to approve the April 9, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Discussion:

- Councilman Tobin asked if the closing of NEST had impacted NPD's operations.
- Chief Papasodora explained that the impact was not yet readily apparent.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tobin; Andersen;  
Brown

Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Flyer re: Spring Clean-Up from May 27 – June 2.

- Councilman Tobin asked if Kawerak was scheduling an e-waste disposal event again this year; he also reiterated his question as to removing appliances from a neighbor's yard, asking if he presented a list would the City inquire with the owners.
- Manager Moran explained that Kawerak would be offering e-waste disposal services again this year. He explained that the City has approached owners in the past concerning unsightly yard debris and could do so again.
- Councilman Andersen volunteered to assist Councilman Tobin.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- 1) Jay Sterne addressed the Council explaining his involvement in working on the development of an Arctic Deep Draft Port in Nome. He explained his policy work with both Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, as well as with the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Sterne explained he was in town for the planning charrette and hoped to facilitate a positive outcome for Nome.
  - Mayor Beneville complimented the quality of Mr. Sterne's work.
- 2) Pat Hahn complained to the Council on the increasing junk accumulation at 602 East 1<sup>st</sup> Ave and asked that the City do something to address the issue. He noted that at times a car couldn't get through and that there have been issues with emergency services and snow removal. Mr. Hahn explained that he has tried to address the issue with the owners to no avail.
  - Manager Moran explained the steps City Hall had already taken to address the issue. He volunteered to ticket the property owner more aggressively if it was the wish of the Council.
  - Councilman Andersen suggested staff look into other areas the property might not be in compliance with Nome Code of Ordinances, such as water / sewer subscription and if necessary close the property down. He suggested ticketing the property owner daily until he cleaned up the mess.
- 3) Thomas Riley from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management introduced himself to the Council. He introduced the Rural Resilience Conference being held in Nome June 12 – 14, 2018 which would bring together communities from across the region around themes of emergency management and resilience. He invited the Mayor to make opening remarks and welcome conference participants.
  - Councilman Andersen asked how coordination in emergency management between Nome and the region would be addressed.
  - Mr. Riley noted the topic of emergency management coordination was a small portion of the agenda though the workshop would be centered on communication between communities and maximizing access to state and federal programs to prepare for, mitigate risk and recover from disasters.
  - Mayor Beneville commented that communication and coordination would especially important in light of the Arctic Deep Draft Port development.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-18-03-01 An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Municipal Property by Lease to the Federal Aviation Administration (Newton Peak), **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

The Council recessed into public hearing at 7:21 PM.

#### Discussion:

- Mayor Beneville asked how long the period of lease is.
- Manager Moran explained it was a 10-year lease.

The Council reconvened at 7:23 PM.

A motion was made by C. Tobin and seconded by C. Brown to adopt O-18-03-02.

#### Discussion:

- Councilman Tobin asked how the ordinance changed the status quo.
- Manager Moran explained that the land disposal didn't appear to have been done by ordinance before. The ordinance up for passage was an effort to do things by the book and correct mistakes of the past.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Tobin; Andersen; Brown; D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. O-18-04-02 An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Municipal Property by Lease to the Federal Aviation Administration (Nome Municipal Cemetery), **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Tobin to advance O-18-04-02.

#### Discussion:

- Manager Moran explained that the property in question was purchased from Alaska Gold, who had a previous lease in place. The FAA had continued to pay Alaska Gold who caught the mistake and forwarded the fund to the City of Nome. He explained the leased area was occupied by the FAA's runway lights which were needed for the Airport's landing strip.
- Councilman Andersen asked if this might affect mining the Cemetery expansion lands and requested staff discuss the matter with FAA. He asked after the status of a deal to mine the expansion lands.
- Manager Moran explained the leased area would be off limits, but he would ask about the surrounding lands. He noted that two outfits have expressed interest in mining, though a deal had yet to be struck.
- Councilman Tobin asked if the range light for the Port was on the same property.

- Port Director Baker explained the rear range light was in the old cemetery and was a different lease.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Tobin; Andersen; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

B. O-18-04-03 An Ordinance Granting a Vacation of Right-of-Way Application in Block 96, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Tobin and seconded by C. Brown to advance O-18-04-03.

Discussion:

- Councilman M. Johnson asked if an application was submitted.
- Manager Moran explained the application was made through the submission of a letter, which prompted staff to begin drawing up a formal vacation of right of way application. He explained the ordinance would be up for second reading on May 29, 2018.
- Councilman Andersen asked if this action would set a precedent.
- Manager Moran explained the City had vacated rights of way before, most recently in Block 116 for Norton Sound Hospital.
- Councilman M. Johnson explained the City owned the property and the right of way was not merely an easement. He further explained the area was known as Lang's dog lot.

At the roll call:

Aye: Tobin; Andersen; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

C. R-18-04-01 A Resolution Supporting the Graphite One Project on the Seward Peninsula in Northwest Alaska.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-18-04-01.

A motion was made by C. Tobin and seconded by C. Brown to amend the resolution by striking the name "Graphite One Resources" throughout the resolution.

Discussion:

- Councilman Tobin explained the City should support the project, but not necessarily the company that is currently pursuing the project.
- Councilman Andersen opined the amendment wouldn't support the project's cause as Graphite One Resources was looking for financing to develop the mine.

- Mayor Beneville suggested offering up more support to the company and the project, as both would benefit the City and Port of Nome when in operation through jobs and wharfage.
- Councilman Tobin opined a monopoly was not in the best interests of the Nome.
- Councilman D. Johnson explained the company owned the rights to the mineral reserves and did not risk losing the property to competitors.
- Councilman M. Johnson noted that SB203 used language supporting the company but stated the purpose was to support the project.
- Councilman Brown suggested changing the title to "Graphite Creek Project" and take out the "Graphite One Project" from the "Now therefore be it resolved."

At the roll call:

Aye: Tobin

Nay: Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Andersen

Abstain:

The motion to amend **FAILED**.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Andersen to amend the resolution by changing the title to "A Resolution Supporting the Graphite Creek Project on the Seward Peninsula in Northwest Alaska."

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tobin;  
Andersen; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion:

At the roll call:

Aye: Andersen; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson;  
Martinson; Tobin

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion, as amended, **CARRIED**.

- D. R-18-04-02 A Resolution Requesting that the State of Alaska Consider Raising the Speed Limit on Seppala Drive.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Tobin to adopt R-18-04-02.

Discussion:

- Manager Moran explained the wording in the resolution and the events led to its drafting. He noted a number of complaints over the 25 MPH limit between Center Creek Rd and the Airport and the subsequent issuance of speeding tickets for what citizens felt was a reasonable speed.
- Councilman Andersen stated he thought the limit was 30 MPH.

- Councilman Tobin noted the blind spot at the intersection of Jafet and Seppala as potentially dangerous.
- Councilman Brown opined the speed limit past Center Creek was set too low and finds himself and his wife traveling 30 or 35 MPH. He described traveling at such speeds as feeling natural and having to force himself to slow down when he realizes he is traveling above the posted speed limit.

At the roll call:

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

Nay: Tobin

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. R-18-04-03 A Resolution Supporting HJR 33 and Requesting that the United States Coast Guard Authorize a Seasonal Forward Operating Location in Nome.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt R-18-04-03.

Discussion:

- Mayor Beneville noted that he had already testified twice in support of HJR 33.
- Councilman Andersen noted the discussion on the House floor concerned an Arctic Port and clarified that he would like to see support for both a forward operating location and a port. He reiterated his request from the last regular meeting that the City explore different options and strategies to attract agencies such as the Coast Guard and the Navy to locate a base in Nome.
- Manager Moran summarized remarks to that end from the recent meeting with the Coast Guard.
- Mayor Beneville agreed with Councilman Andersen and stated such options should be put in writing.
- Councilman Andersen suggested setting aside one million dollars and begin researching grants and planning for a future base to show the City of Nome is an eager partner in the development of an arctic port. He requested that Port Director Baker and Mr. Sterne begin planning.

#### **UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Assistant Utility Manager Morton briefed the Council on progress in addressing water leaks around town, the commencement of the programmable logic controller (PLC) update project, and announced the imminent commencement of the Utility's audit.
  - Councilman Tobin inquired about a leak at the rec center water tank.
  - Assistant Manager Morton explained the circumstances and that the leak was fixed.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Manager Moran presented his written report, highlighting recent meetings, upcoming meetings, a presentation at the Rotary Club, and the upcoming Board of Equalization meeting. He noted that City Hall would be closed on Friday May 25 for cleaning and referred the Council to the department heads quarterly reports.



- Mayor Beneville confirmed details about the upcoming meeting with Public Health Nursing, regarding mass immunization plans.
- Councilman Tobin asked about the Nome Re-entry Coalition meeting.
- Manager Moran explained the group, their funding, and purpose.
- Councilman Mark Johnson confirmed property tax appeals were due on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and asked how many the City received this year.
- Clerk Hammond noted thirteen appeals and that the assessor was due into Nome on Sunday.
- Councilman Tobin commented on the unique counting of volunteer hours in regards to the Wet Buns contest over Iditarod.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

### **COUNCILMEN'S COMMENTS**

- 1) Councilman Tobin – no comments.
- 2) Councilman Andersen requested that two members of the Council sit down with two members of the School Board to discuss this year's school budget and City contribution without staff present. He informed the Council that he would not be present at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Councilman Andersen reiterated his request that the City put together a package of options that would make Nome a more attractive location for an arctic port, reasoning that other communities do similar.
- 3) Councilman Brown agreed with Councilman Andersen with respect to meeting with the School Board and volunteered himself for the task.
- 4) Councilman Doug Johnson agreed with Councilmen Andersen and Brown that a meeting with the School Board would be productive. He asked that pet owners clean up after their pets and to keep their dogs on leashes in town. He requested that the City be proactive and put dog stations out to facilitate pet owners' proper disposal of pet waste.
  - Manager Moran noted there were already a few dog stations in storage.
- 5) Councilman Mark Johnson reminded everyone that on May 1<sup>st</sup> the sales tax rate would change from 5 percent to 7 percent. He opined the rate increase over the summer was not good for the promotion of business and that the City should re-evaluate the issue again. He noted a referendum petition was in the works that may place the issue on the ballot again.
- 6) Councilman Martinson – no comments.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

- Mayor Beneville noted the Arctic Deep Draft Port planning charrette was set to begin the next day and represents a huge step forward in developing the port. He explained that he attended a meeting at which a group announced it was seeking to mine the by the Solomon and Bonanza Rivers east of Cape Nome. He noted a concern for bird and fish in the sensitive area. Mayor Beneville discussed the 1918 flu epidemic film held at the museum, his recent meeting with the outgoing and incoming Coast Guard admirals. He finished by agreeing with Councilman Andersen on the need for a plan to make Nome more attractive as an arctic port and opining it would be good to have the public weigh in on the sales tax issue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

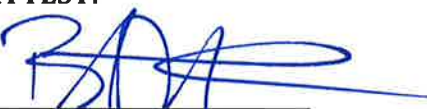
A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Brown that the meeting be adjourned.

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.

  
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**RICHARD BENEVILLE**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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**BRYANT HAMMOND**  
City Clerk