

**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  
WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018 @ 5:00/7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

**WORK SESSION, 5:00:**

Presentation of Funding Proposals for NSEDC's 2017 Community Benefit Share (CBS),  
**PAGE 1**

**REGULAR MEETING, 7:00:**

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. December 11, 2017 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes,  
**PAGE 53**

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of December 1, 2017 from Blood Bank of Alaska to City of Nome re: Donation of Mini Convention Center,  
**PAGE 65**
- B. Letter of December 12, 2017 from U.S. Consul General Keays to Mayor Beneville re: Visit to Alaska,  
**PAGE 67**
- C. Article of December 14, 2017 re: *Alaska Jails Want to Cut Restrictions on Furloughs*,  
**PAGE 69**
- D. Notice of December 15, 2017 re: Golden China License Renewal,  
**PAGE 71**
- E. Notices of December 20, 2017 re: Nome Liquor Store License Renewal,  
**PAGE 79**
- F. Letter of December 27, 2017 from Obie Simonis to Nome City Council re: Snow Removal on Fireweed Way,  
**PAGE 93**
- G. Notice of December 29, 2017 re: Polar Bar License Renewal,  
**PAGE 101**
- H. Notice of December 29, 2017 re: Polar Liquor Store License Renewal,  
**PAGE 109**

- I. Letter of December 29, 2017 from NSEDC to Mayor Beneville re: 2018 Community Employment Program,  
**PAGE 117**
- J. Memorandum of January 5, 2018 from Clerk Hammond re: Late Filer for Sales Tax Exemption,  
**PAGE 121**
- K. City of Nome FY19 Budget Calendar,  
**PAGE 123**

V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

VI. PLANNING AND ZONING

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-18-01-01 An Ordinance Amending Section 17.20.080 (Payment Dates, Penalties and Interest) of the Nome Code of Ordinances  
**FIRST READING/DISCUSSION,**  
**PAGE 125**
- B. R-18-01-01 A Resolution Awarding the 2017 NSEDC Community Benefit Share Funds,  
**PAGE 127**
- C. R-18-01-02 A Resolution Supporting the Nome Airport Paving Project,  
**PAGE 129**
- D. R-18-01-03 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Bristol Engineering Services Corporation (BESC) as Acting City Engineer,  
**PAGE 131**

VIII. UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: December 12, 2017 – January 5, 2018,  
**VERBAL**

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: December 12, 2017 – January 5, 2018,  
**PAGE 135**

X. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

XI. COUNCILMEN'S COMMENTS

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: December 12, 2017 – January 5, 2018,  
**VERBAL**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES  
NOME CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 8, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 7:08 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; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Lew Tobin

Members Absent:

Also Present: Richard Beneville, Mayor; Tom Moran, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; John Handeland, Utility Manager; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager; Julie Liew, Finance Director; Marguerite LaRiviere, Library Director

In the audience: Ginny Emmons; Devin Tatro; Barb Amarok; Mackenzie Hall; Rama Cabrera; Kirsten Bey; Rhonda Scheider; Danielle Slingsby; Lisa Leeper; Sara Lizak; Rosa Schmidt; Ken Hughes; Wes Perkins

**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. M. Johnson 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. December 11, 2017 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Tobin to approve the December 11, 2017 minutes.

Discussion:

- Councilman M. Johnson asked staff to check the roll call sheet on the O-17-11-01 amendment to ensure his vote was accurately recorded.
- Manager Moran noted the task would be performed administratively.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Letter of December 1, 2017 from Blood Bank of Alaska to City of Nome re: Donation of Mini Convention Center.
- B. Letter of December 12, 2017 from U.S. Consul General Keays to Mayor Beneville re: Visit to Alaska.
- C. Article of December 14, 2017 re: *Alaska Jails Want to Cut Restrictions on Furloughs*.
- D. Notice of December 15, 2017 re: Golden China License Renewal.
- E. Notices of December 20, 2017 re: Nome Liquor Store License Renewal.
- F. Letter of December 27, 2017 from Obie Simonis to Nome City Council re: Snow Removal on Fireweed Way.
  - Councilman Tobin asked why the City was pushing snow on a private lot.
  - Manager Moran explained the snow was left there short term because the tundra was too soft to push snow into the regular snow storage.
  - Mayor Beneville asked if the snow was still there.
  - Mr. Simonis admitted the majority was gone.
  - Manager Moran explained the City did not intend to push snow onto non-leased private lots, but had to leave snow on the edge of Mr. Simonis' lot due to the dozer getting stuck in the soft snow on the tundra.
  - Mr. Simonis contended that the City would have to use his lot, as the amount of snow formed a wall that impedes the dozer.
  - Councilman Brown asked why the snow didn't go to the City snow dump.
  - Manager Moran explained it wasn't realistically feasible haul all the snow in the City to the snow dump, so the City leased lots in Icy View, Martinsonville and Panorama Bench to push snow onto.
  - Councilman Johnson asked how long the snow remained on Mr. Simonis' lot.
  - Mr. Simonis stated the snow remained for six days before it was removed. He complained his lot was used as a snow dump to start with and then as a construction site as the snow was removed. He asked to have the snow removed away from his boat and was asked by the City to move his boat back to facilitate the removal. He complained the snow prevented him from using his lot the way that he pays taxes for. He argued the City needed to access his lot to get to the snow dump, even though snow should be moved down the road, rather than his lot.
  - Councilman Johnson suggested the City compensate Mr. Simonis for using his lot.
  - Manager Moran agreed to address the issue the following day.
- G. Notice of December 29, 2017 re: Polar Bar License Renewal.
- H. Notice of December 29, 2017 re: Polar Liquor Store License Renewal.

- I. Letter of December 29, 2017 from NSEDC to Mayor Beneville re: 2018 Community Employment Program.
- Councilman Andersen asked for an explanation.
  - Manager Moran explained the program and noted a recent example of the City using this funding source to pay the wages of an accounting tech during summers while she was attending university; she successfully transitioned into a full time position upon graduation.
- J. Memorandum of January 5, 2018 from Clerk Hammond re: Late Filer for Sales Tax Exemption.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Brown to accept the exemption application as if timely filed.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- K. City of Nome FY19 Budget Calendar.
- Manager Moran explained the calendar would be run in each packet until the budget passed.

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- 1) Barb Amarok thanked the Council for their support and consideration of the BSWG funding request.
- 2) John Handeland thanked the City for its assistance with getting the fireworks to Nome. He also thanked the roads crew for their hard work in clearing snow from the streets. He noted that the crew leaves snow on his property from time to time, but usually removes more than they leave through wide swaths of the grader.
- 3) Rosa Schmidt explained that she was a recipient of NSEDC Community Employment Program and spoke well of the program. She updated the Council on recent happenings at the Library, highlighting Duplo Lego programs, Star Wars Day, as well as the partnerships that help with the Library's success. She thanked the Council for their support and explained that children have such a good time at the Library that some cry when they have to leave.
  - Councilman Tobin noted the great improvement in Ms. Schmidt's public speaking ability and asked about her future plans.
  - Ms. Schmidt explained she was pursuing a degree in secondary math education and intended to come back to the region upon completion.
  - Mayor Beneville noted Library Director LaRiviere beaming at the back of the room.
- 4) Wes Perkins thanked the Council for their consideration in funding SPARC's request. He added that the organization wouldn't need to request more funds next year if it received funds this year.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. O-18-01-01 An Ordinance Amending Section 17.20.080 (Payment Dates, Penalties and Interest) of the Nome Code of Ordinances **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Tobin and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-18-01-01.

#### Discussion:

- Councilman Tobin asked what staff was trying to accomplish with the ordinance.
- Clerk Hammond explained the process by which Clerk's Office and Finance Department staff handles payments received after the due date, but postmarked on or before the due date. He noted the process by which staff had to delay monthly processes such as billing penalty and interest to delinquent accounts and manually adjust individual payments that appeared afterward. He noted mistakes arose and the process frustrated staff. Clerk Hammond explained that some payments postmarked by the due date can arrive months afterward.
- Councilman Tobin surmised the issue would repeat itself, just two weeks later. He suggested changing penalty and interest accruals to occur on the 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Clerk Hammond noted such a change would affect all 12 months.
- Manager Moran explained that staff would be satisfied with removing the postmark provision and keeping the 15<sup>th</sup> as the due date, though that would give property owners less time, as bills don't get mailed until June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Councilman M. Johnson asked if the accounting system was at issue.
- Manager Moran explained that in the past when staff would run penalty and interest at close of business on the 15<sup>th</sup> and then have to manually adjust 1,000 payments.
- Clerk Hammond explained that staff frustration prompted him to present this ordinance.
- Councilman Tobin suggested the public would be similarly frustrated.
- Councilman Andersen stated late was late.
- Mayor Beneville noted several complaints pertaining to the post office and property taxes over the past few years.
- Councilman D. Johnson stated taxpayers shouldn't be penalized by a mistake at the post office.
- Clerk Hammond explained that online payment options were available.
- Councilman Brown stated that alleviated his concerns, so long as the mortgage companies were able to remit electronically.
- Manager Moran noted that without the postmark, taxpayers would still have six weeks to remit payment.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- B. R-18-01-01 A Resolution Awarding the 2017 NSEDC Community Benefit Share Funds.

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

Discussion:

- Councilman M. Johnson declared a conflict of interest due to serving five clients listed on the resolution as being awards funds.
- Mayor Beneville accepted the declaration.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Andersen to amend R-18-01-01 by adding "NCC – Undesignated \$4,500" to the list of awardees.

Discussion:

- Councilman Brown explained Nome Community Center could put the funds towards one or more of the four other projects as they see fit, as one of their projects was being funded at \$10,000 less than requested.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain: M. Johnson

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion:

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain: M. Johnson

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

C. R-18-01-02 A Resolution Supporting the Nome Airport Paving Project.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-18-01-02.

Discussion:

- Councilman Brown asked if AK DOT&PF was requesting financial assistance or just the resolution.
- Manager Moran explained the resolution would be sufficient.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-18-01-03 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Bristol Engineering Services Corporation (BESC) as Acting City Engineer.

A motion was made by R-18-01-03 by C. Tobin and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-18-01-03.

Discussion:

- Councilman Brown asked why the word "acting" was used.
- Manager Moran explained that the position City Engineer used to be under the City's collective bargaining agreement. When the City wasn't able to fill the position, it was put out to bid. Bristol was awarded the contract and has acted as the City Engineer ever since. He noted that the City continued to do business with Bristol and Boyd, Chandler, & Falconer because of the historical knowledge built over the years. Manager Moran spoke highly of John Brees' work.
- Councilman Brown noted with interest that the City Attorney issued an opinion stating historical knowledge was reason to keep a contracted firm, namely, Boyd, Chandler, & Falconer.
- Councilman Tobin asked if there were any parameters to the contract.
- Manager Moran noted the budget line item was capped at \$30,000, though Bristol could get paid out of grant funded project funds when the need arises.
- Councilman Andersen asked for details on the East End Park Engineering.
- Manager Moran explained the history of the Rotary Club's use of the park.
- Councilman Tobin lamented the expense of developing the park in wetlands.
- Councilman Andersen asked for a status on the proposed ice rink facility.
- Manager Moran explained there were no funds designated for construction, though Bristol has been slowly developing design documents. He noted a domed facility might cost in excess of \$1 million, so an alternate plan might be more feasible.

**UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Assistant Utility Manager Morton noted the humid, windy weather as cause for an uptick in callouts due to icing. He noted several water leaks around town that the Utility would soon be addressing. Assistant Manager Morton noted the recent pole attachment agreement with ACS to get Kawerak connected to fiber. He explained the Utility was in talks with USDA concerning refinancing loans to obtain better rates. The sanitary survey has been completed, which happens once every three years, with nothing exciting found. The Utility is coordinating with Northern Region DOT&PF planning the 2020 construction along Bering Street.
  - Councilman Andersen asked if one of the leaks was in the middle of the street.
  - Assistant Manager Morton explained it was two feet from pavement and about eight or nine feet down.
  - Mayor Beneville asked if the Utility had been working with the Port concerning the potential waste receiving facility.
  - Port Director Baker stated the Utility and the Port were already conversing on the subject.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- City Manager Moran presented his written report. He congratulated Rosa Schmidt on a job well done and noted the hiring of Peter Hansen as equipment operator and Daniel Stang as building inspector. Manager Moran noted the Ground Penetrating Radar project currently on



the street for the Cemetery. He thanked the Nome Visitors' Center for opening on Christmas to provide a warm place for those that had nowhere else to go. Manager Moran also noted increased interest of residents in purchasing east end lots that the City currently owns.

- Councilman Brown noted the expense of installing an entire water/sewer loop through the neighborhood, but encouraged taking bids for the properties.
- Councilman Tobin expressed concern the area would end up a hodgepodge as the mining company left Dry Creek.
- Councilman Andersen requested a work session before the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to discuss budget priorities.
- Councilman Brown requested the projected expenditure to the end of the year if staff was not presenting mid-year budget ordinances this year, noting he wasn't concerned about the ordinances as long as the Council received the information.
- Manager Moran contended working through ordinance was antiquated, but assured the Council they would get the relevant information.
- Councilman Andersen noted he had been approached by the owner of one of the cab companies who complained about the cost of inspections that were being enforced this year.
- Manager Moran repeated the history of cab complaints over the previous year. He explained the Police Chief, Clerk and he had discussed the issue and finalized a form specifying what components needed to be inspected and that the City contracted mechanic would perform the work.

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- 1) Chief Papasodora noted that 2017 was the first year in which NPD had over 10,000 calls for service and that the numbers would be in his report at the next meeting. He thanked NEST for their work, noting he would have given them more funds as they decrease the workload of his officers. Chief noted his current staffing at 5.5/10 positions filled and hoped to have 10/10 by June; however, with the increase in calls for service he described the NPD budget as highly fluid.
  - Councilman Tobin asked what happens when NEST is maxed out.
  - Chief explained the process by which the hospital takes those in need medical care.
  - Councilman Johnson asked about officer retention and hiring.
  - Chief Papasodora explained strategies to incentivize working at NPD, including increasing base wages and seeking specific employees. He noted challenges presented by the reimbursement schedule by the Alaska Police Standards Council and the two weeks on / two weeks off schedules offered by other departments in the state.

#### **COUNCILMEN'S COMMENTS**

- 1) Councilman M. Johnson – No comments.
- 2) Councilman Martinson – no comments.
- 3) Councilman Tobin expressed his happiness at seeing NACTEC still open and doing well after 15 years. He appreciated Wendy Chamberlain's insights on Juneau business. He expressed condolences to the NSEDC proposers that didn't receive the funding they requested. Councilman Tobin explained the Pioneers placed three bronze plaques in the Cemetery and had an additional 10. They hope to place about 10 a year. Councilman Tobin asked Councilman Andersen to confirm deny rumors that there was a petition circulating to recall CEO Angie Gorn and if the Board President had been suspended.
  - Councilman Andersen denied the first and confirmed the second.

- Councilman Tobin asked if the NSHC Board of Directors would go into executive session if he showed up again. He also stated he had heard local nurses were leaving employment at the hospital and asked when CEO Gorn would next be presenting to the Council.
- 4) Councilman Andersen explained he was still working on revamping Council Chambers and asked Council members to inform the clerk how they would like the packet delivered, electronically or in paper format.
- 5) Councilman Brown noted that you can scroll and make notes in a packet on an iPad or tablet computer, though it may appear as if you are playing a game during the Council meeting. He requested an accounting of NSEDC funds not distributing, for whatever reason, over the previous five years.
- 6) Councilman D. Johnson – no comments.

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

- Mayor Beneville discussed his recent visit with the U.S. Counsel General stationed in Vladivostok, Russia and that the Friendship Flight of 1988 kept coming up. Russian's still have fond memories of the event, as well as the lend-lease program. Mayor Beneville relayed Counsel General Keays' wish that to see dialogue with Nome's sister city of Providenya, as well as increased travel across the strait. He noted the visit received a lot of coverage. Mayor Beneville finished by asking Councilman Andersen to Chair the regular meeting of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, as he will be traveling internationally on City business.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 8:39 PM.

**APPROVED and SIGNED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**STAN ANDERSEN**  
Acting Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**BRYANT HAMMOND**  
City Clerk