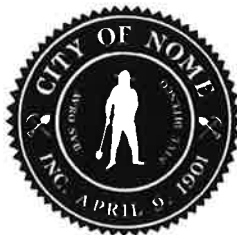


**Mayor**  
Richard Beneville  
**Manager**  
Tom Moran  
**Clerk**  
Bryant Hammond



**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, DECEMBER 11, 2017 @ 6:30/7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

**WORK SESSION, 6:30 PM:**

Project Status Report from Quintillion Management Team

**REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 PM:**

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. November 27, 2017 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes,  
**PAGE 1**

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of October 29, 2017 from Sine Holly to DOC re: Public Records Request,  
**PAGE 11**
- B. Letter of October 31, 2017 from DOT Commissioner Luiken to Manager Moran re: Ownership of Greg Kruschek Avenue,  
**PAGE 13**
- C. Letter of November 8, 2017 from DOC to Sine Holly re: Public Records Request,  
**PAGE 15**
- D. Letter of November 10, 2017 from Nome Community Center to Seaside Director Weston re: Support for Sex Offender Treatment at Seaside,  
**PAGE 17**
- E. Letter of November 21, 2017 from Danielle Slingsby to Seaside Director Weston re: Support for Sex Offender Treatment at Seaside,  
**PAGE 19**
- F. Email Chain of November 22, 2017 Between DOC Commissioner Williams and Sine Holly re: Sex Offenders at Seaside,  
**PAGE 21**
- G. APRN Article of November 29, 2017 entitled *Why Nobody Likes Anchorage's Potential Alcohol Tax but its Sponsor*,  
**PAGE 25**
- H. Letter of November 30, 2017 from Alaska Business Development Center to Clerk Hammond re: Donation Request for ABDC's Volunteer Tax Program,  
**PAGE 29**

- I. Letter of December 4, 2017 from Ryan Air to City of Nome re: Request for Holiday Party Donations,  
**PAGE 33**
- J. Letter of December 4, 2017 from Melissa Ford to Nome City Council re: Ordinance to Allow Sex Offenders to be Housed at Seaside,  
**PAGE 35**

V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

VI. PLANNING AND ZONING

- A. November 7, 2017 Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes,  
**PAGE 37**

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-17-11-01 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3.30 (Correctional Facilities) of the Nome Code of Ordinances,  
**SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE,**  
**PAGE 43**
- B. O-17-11-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12.10 (Port Commission) of the Nome Code of Ordinances,  
**SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE,**  
**PAGE 45**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-17-12-01 A Resolution Endorsing Projects and Position Statements for the City of Nome's 2018 Federal Legislative Priorities,  
**PAGE 49**
- B. R-17-12-02 A Resolution Endorsing Projects and Position Statements for the City of Nome's 2018 State Legislative Priorities,  
**PAGE 51**
- C. R-17-12-03 A Resolution Authorizing the Commencement of the Abatement Process on Public Nuisances as Recommended by the Nome Planning Commission,  
**PAGE 53**
- D. R-17-12-04 A Resolution Certifying that the Municipality did Suffer Significant Effects During the Program Base Year from Fisheries Business Activities that Occurred within the FMA 11: Norton Sound Fisheries Management Area,  
**PAGE 55**
- E. R-17-12-05 A Resolution Approving the Employment of Ava Earthman as Lifeguard I,  
**PAGE 63**
- F. R-17-12-06 A Resolution Approving the Employment of Bode Leeper as Pool Clerical Helper,  
**PAGE 65**

X. UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 28 – December 7,  
**VERBAL**

XI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 28 – December 7,  
**PAGE 67**

B. Port & Harbor Projects Update: December 2017,  
**PAGE 69**

XI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

XII. COUNCILMEN'S COMMENTS

XIII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: November 28 – December 7,  
**VERBAL**

B. Planning Commission Seat "B" (Farley) Appointment,  
**PAGE 71**

C. Port Commission Seat "E" (Johnson) Appointment,  
**PAGE 73**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES  
NOME CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 11, 2017**

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; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson;

Members Absent: Lew Tobin (excused)

Also Present: Tom Moran, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; John Handeland, Utility Manager; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager

In the audience: Sandra Medearis, *Arctic News*; Davis Hovey, KNOM; Bob Weston; Melissa Ford; Ken Hughes; Sue Steinacher; Robin Johnson; Adam Lust; Lance Johnson; Trinh Johnson; Denise Gilroy; Sandra Martinson; Adam Rutherford (telephonically); Barb Cromwell

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. November 27, 2017 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. D. Johnson to approve the November 27, 2017 minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Letter of October 29, 2017 from Sine Holly to DOC re: Public Records Request.
- B. Letter of October 31, 2017 from DOT Commissioner Luiken to Manager Moran re: Ownership of Greg Kruschek Avenue.
  - Councilman Andersen cited the letter as an example of how perseverance pays off and conjectured that this was the first time the issue reached the Commissioner himself. He requested better communication between City staff and AK DOT&PF concerning the nomination of streets for capital improvements projects in Nome.
  - Mayor Beneville asked if the City could now go after funding for sidewalks and walking paths.
  - Councilman Andersen stated there was funding set aside for such projects.
  - Manager Moran summarized the events leading to the letter for those unfamiliar, explaining the City of Nome requested Greg Kruschek Avenue from the State in 2012, but was denied. The current letter is a response to a request to the State of Alaska to lower the speed limit, contending the City of Nome has always owned the road and could set the speed limit it chooses.
- C. Letter of November 8, 2017 from DOC to Sine Holly re: Public Records Request.
- D. Letter of November 10, 2017 from Nome Community Center to Seaside Director Weston re: Support for Sex Offender Treatment at Seaside.
- E. Letter of November 21, 2017 from Danielle Slingsby to Seaside Director Weston re: Support for Sex Offender Treatment at Seaside.
- F. Email Chain of November 22, 2017 Between DOC Commissioner Williams and Sine Holly re: Sex Offenders at Seaside.
- G. APRN Article of November 29, 2017 entitled *Why Nobody Likes Anchorage's Potential Alcohol Tax but its Sponsor*.
- H. Letter of November 30, 2017 from Alaska Business Development Center (ABDC) to Clerk Hammond re: Donation Request for ABDC's Volunteer Tax Program.
  - Councilman Andersen nominated ABDC for NSEDC funds, stating the organization does a great job assisting with tax preparation and he has used them for the previous 5 years.
- I. Letter of December 4, 2017 from Ryan Air to City of Nome re: Request for Holiday Party Donations.
- J. Letter of December 4, 2017 from Melissa Ford to Nome City Council re: Ordinance to Allow Sex Offenders to be Housed at Seaside.

## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- 1) Trinh Johnson spoke in opposition to housing sex offenders at Seaside, stating it was an unacceptable risk housing such offenders in the heart of Nome where residents frequent businesses. She conjectured the proposal would not help the sex offenders get better.

- 2) Sue Steinacher spoke in support of housing sex offenders at Seaside, arguing many sex offenders are already released in town. She went on to state that offenders would be released regardless and any treatment was better than none.

### **PLANNING AND ZONING**

- A. November 7, 2017 Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.
- Councilman Andersen requested pictures of the properties proposed for abatement, stating he wasn't quite sure which properties were in question.
  - Manager Moran explained the process by which the Planning Commission came to recommend the four properties proposed for potential abatement, emphasizing the resolution currently on the agenda was not required by Code, but added by staff for greater transparency and buy-in from the Council and Planning Commission. He summarized the notice timeline moving into 2018.
  - Councilman Andersen requested staff send letters to property owners on the abatement master list to inform them the City was reviewing their property.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-17-11-01 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3.30 (Correctional Facilities) of the Nome Code of Ordinances, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:18 PM.

#### Discussion:

- Lance Johnson clarified that NSHC Behavioral Health Services does not currently provide sex offender treatment, as was stated in the press. He noted BHS did not currently have a provider approved by the state. Mr. Johnson spoke in support of the ordinance, explaining that sex offenders were already present in the community and meeting with adult probation across the street. A treatment program at Seaside makes sense because it provides a secure environment for such services, it makes economic sense for the community, and the possibility of closing Seaside over declining revenue is a real possibility.
- Trinh Johnson spoke in opposition to the ordinance, arguing that sex offenders wouldn't be able to find work upon release and would end up homeless and intoxicated on Front Street and bothering tourists.
- Denise Gilroy stated that she was hearing that people want treatment provided but also want to be assured of adequate security. She noted that Lance Johnson's comments threw her for a loop.
- Sandy Martinson, Superintendent of Anvil Mountain Correctional Center (AMCC), thanked the Council for discussing this difficult topic. She made three points: sex offenders in custody would be released into the general public regardless; Norton Sound has 15 sex offenders in the general public awaiting entrance into a treatment program in an urban area of Alaska; the Department of Corrections (DOC) would still be providing treatment to high risk offenders at AMCC.
- Councilman Andersen asked if the treatment was court-ordered and what were the consequences if the offender did not follow through. He stated that if the ordinance passed, the City of Nome would not get status updates from the DOC.
- Ms. Martinson explained that the treatment was court ordered, but the offenders had to wait for an opening at an approved provider to begin. She suggested the Council add stipulations to the ordinance to satisfy their concerns.

- Manager Moran emphasized the Council's ability to amend the ordinance and reminded them that Councilman Tobin suggested an amendment that sex offenders be confined to Seaside during their entire stay, rather than being granted furlough.
- Councilman M. Johnson asked that if revenues were an issue, wouldn't the new crime bill increase incarceration rates.
- Sandy Martinson noted that SB54 would not make sweeping changes to the criminal justice system in Alaska.
- Mayor Beneville asked Adam Rutherford to explain why the public was led to believe treatment services were currently available in Nome.
- Mr. Rutherford explained that DOC doesn't issue Public Service Announcements and that there was only one approved provider in Nome.
- Lance Johnson clarified that BHS was seeking approval for a provider, though as of yet didn't have one.
- Councilman Johnson asked if an alternative space to Seaside was available.
- Mr. Rutherford stated that the probation office across the street was the other space available.
- Sandy Martinson explained that high risk offenders would receive treatment at AMCC and low risk offenders would receive treatment at Seaside.
- Councilman Brown opined that inpatient treatment at Seaside sounded better than outpatient treatment at the probation office from a security standpoint.
- Councilman Andersen asked who provides treatment if there are no providers and asked if Seaside would be expanding its holding capacity.
- Seaside Facility Director Bob Weston explained the facility had beds for 42 males and 20 females. He stressed the decision concerned treatment rather than filling beds and explained the security features of the facility, including buzzed access at doors, 43 cameras, and constant monitoring by guards. He continued to explain that inmates who don't comply are sent back to jail and the facility has zero tolerance for violations. Mr. Weston noted that there were two escapes in two years and both inmates were apprehended the same day.
- Councilman Andersen cited the Nome Youth Facility and called Commissioner Williams' threat to close Seaside unfounded.
- Councilman M. Johnson asked why the City of Nome was threatened with the closure of Seaside.
- Ms. Martinson explained the State still needed to fill the beds.
- Mr. Weston explained Seaside was the only halfway house in Western Alaska and asked where the inmates would go.
- Councilman Johnson asked why inmates couldn't get treatment at AMCC.
- Ms. Martinson explained the division of low and high risk offenders again.
- Councilman Brown asked how the DOC determined low vs. high risk.
- Ms. Martinson explained probation staff classified offenders by a matrix.
- Adam Rutherford added that risk factors for re-offense were also used.
- Councilman Brown stated that if filling beds was an issue, then potentially the admittance factors for Seaside could be changed. He added that Councilman Tobin's suggestion of full custody during treatment made sense.
- Councilman D. Johnson asked for the exiting procedure and how overdue an inmate needed to be to raise suspicions.
- Bob Weston explained how furloughs were recorded in a controlled log at the front desk, that prior documentation and approval were needed, and that breath and urinalysis were conducted upon return. He noted inmates entered into escape status two hours past expected check-in.
- Councilman M. Johnson reiterated his concern that sex offenders were peering out the windows at passersby and made people uncomfortable.

- Mr. Weston explained the windows were tinted with an opaque film allowing inmates to see out through a small slit, though not able to make gestures at passersby. He requested Councilman M. Johnson direct any specific complaints his way.
- Councilman D. Johnson asked why prisoners were able to spy on people.
- Sandy Martinson argued the prisoners at halfway houses needed to be reintegrated with society, not fully segregated from society.
- Councilman D. Johnson contended the eye slit didn't reintegrate them as they were not in public view.
- Bob Weston reminded the Council that Councilman Tobin sits on the public relations board that meets quarterly and serves to provide community input and build trust.
- Councilman D. Johnson asked how management dealt with violations.
- Bob Weston stated the facility gets better year after year and explained there were no repeat violations per their November audit. He volunteered the previous year's audit if there was interest.
- Melissa Ford spoke in opposition to O-17-11-01, arguing a moral issue had been created out of a fiscal issue. She contended that if treatment was the issue, it would be in full swing at AMCC already. Ms. Ford cited DOC documents stating 18 – 36 months as the effective treatment period of sexual offenders and argued that six months of treatment was just a maneuver to fill beds. She went on to cite statistics of crimes against children and an increase in incidents of rape following a similar program in Bethel and accused the Commissioner of initially lying about the two escape incidents. She finished by stating the 13 percent drop in recidivism rates through treatment wasn't worth risking a child's safety.
- Sandy Martinson clarified that the DOC was proposing the last six months of an inmate's sentence would be served at Seaside and that the treatment received at Seaside would continue upon release.

The Council reconvened at 8:26 PM.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt O-17-11-01.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. D. Johnson to amend O-17-11-01 by adding "and are from the Nome Region, are classified as low-risk, have not been convicted of sexual abuse of a minor, and will be confined to Seaside for the duration of their treatment phase" between the words "treatment" and "and" in Section 1 3.30.020(a)(11)(i).

#### Discussion on the amendment:

- Councilman M. Johnson asked if the recitals should be changed too.
- Councilman Brown noted that changing the codified section of the ordinance would suffice, though the recitals could be edited.
- Mayor Beneville solicited input from Barb Cromwell, Sexual Abuse Response Team (SART) nurse with NSHC.
- Barb Cromwell explained that the majority of sexual offenses committed in the region were against children and that the amendment would be a mistake causing offenders against children to avoid treatment while offenders against adults received treatment. She explained that cases of sexual abuse of a minor usually involve a family member, who upon release returns to the same circumstances in which the offense occurred. She finished by stating the children victims deserve the offenders getting treatment.



- Councilman D. Johnson suggested beginning the treatment program at AMCC and asked where the treatment would occur if not held at Seaside.
- Adam Rutherford explained the treatment would occur at AMCC, though incorporating Seaside would be a more efficient use of resources.
- Councilman M. Johnson asked what the space and staffing requirements would be.
- Adam Rutherford explained treatment would routinely be in 10:1 groups with individual 1:1 sessions monthly.
- Sandy Martinson explained that AMCC was a pre-trial facility and consistently overcapacity. Providing treatment at Seaside would allow for greater provision of treatment services.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Andersen; Brown; D. Johnson

Nay: M. Johnson

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to discussion on the main motion:

- Councilman Andersen asked how long the Seaside/DOC contract was for and how often the facility was audited.
- Bob Weston explained the current contract was five years long and the new program would become part of the annual audit.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; D. Johnson

Nay: M. Johnson; Martinson; Andersen

Abstain:

The motion **FAILED.**

The Council recessed at 8:45 PM.

The Council reconvened at 8:50 PM.

- B. O-17-11-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12.10 (Port Commission) of the Nome Code of Ordinances, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 8:51PM.

Discussion:

- Ken Hughes opined the amendments allowing out of town local users of the Port to serve on the Port Commission would strengthen the Commission.

The Council reconvened at 8:52 PM.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt O-17-11-02.

Discussion:

- Councilman M. Johnson suggested people paying property taxes might feel slighted at the allowance of non-taxpayers to serve on the commission. He quoted the recital stating that interest had waned, yet pointed out there were four applications for two seats.
- Councilman Andersen pointed out that people who live out of town do not necessarily avoid property tax as many own property within City limits but choose not to live there.
- Manager Moran noted that in several instances, vacancies had to be advertised longer to receive applications, though in the present case, several people came forward to apply.
- Mayor Beneville argued that property tax was not all-defining in the case of the Port. The Port of Nome affects the region and has many users surrounding Nome, though outside of City limits. He contended that expanding into that pool was a positive direction.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Andersen to amend O-17-11-02 by deleting "takes the office of" between the words "but" and "mayor" in Section 1 12.10.040(c)(10) and replaced with "currently serves in the capacity of."

Discussion on the amendment:

- Councilman M. Johnson asked where the requested change originated and if the Port Commission had vetted it. He argued those that are affected should see the ordinance first.
- Manager Moran explained the ordinance was requested by the Port Director and couldn't comment on the input she solicited from the Commission.
- Councilman Brown explained the Mayor and Council set appointments. He didn't expect the Mayor to get a Commission's blessing each time an appointment is made, because it was the Council that determines the membership. Councilman Brown noted that Port users pay taxes on the property they store at the Port, regardless of where they live. Furthermore, the Port is set up as an enterprise fund, serving people throughout the Norton Sound Region for a fee and not just the citizens of Nome.
- Councilman M. Johnson asked when the ordinance change was suggested, wanting to ensure the Council wasn't changing ordinances to seat a particular person or fill a particular need.
- Manager Moran explained the dates the when the applications were received and that he had been discussing the idea with Port Director Baker and Mayor Beneville, though did not act on the discussions until November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion:

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; Martinson; Andersen; Brown

Nay: M. Johnson

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. R-17-12-01 A Resolution Endorsing Projects and Position Statements for the City of Nome's 2018 Federal Legislative Priorities.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-17-12-01.

Discussion:

- Manager Moran gave a brief background on the resolution.
- Councilman Brown asked for clarification on the Block 20 Acquisition bullet point.
- Manager Moran explained it was an AKDOT site, which needed FAA blessing first.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-17-12-02 A Resolution Endorsing Projects and Position Statements for the City of Nome's 2018 State Legislative Priorities.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-17-12-02.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Brown to amend the resolution by moving the Nome Public Schools capital projects to priority number three.

Discussion on the amendment:

- Councilman Andersen opined that funders typically look at the top three priorities and the school projects should be among them. He predicted that PCE funding would be lost to the State's fiscal crisis and that the bond package was dependent on Anchorage, rather than small communities such as Nome.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to discussion on the main motion:

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-17-12-03 A Resolution Authorizing the Commencement of the Abatement Process on Public Nuisances as Recommended by the Nome Planning Commission.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-17-12-03.

Discussion:

- Manager Moran explained the resolution was not required, but rather it was to obtain the Council's blessing and add another layer to the public process. He explained the process by which the Planning Commission took responsibility for the abatement master list and had vetted the proposed properties.
- Councilman M. Johnson asked if property owners were aware their property was on the abatement master list prior to notification sent per Nome Code of Ordinances.
- Manager Moran explained owners were notified in the major 2013 process, though staff could do so again.
- Councilman D. Johnson asked what would happen if the resolution passed.
- Manager Moran explained the process laid out in the Nome Code of Ordinances.
- Councilman Brown asked about 106 W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Manager Moran explained the building was approved for abatement through the 2016 process, though there had been a disagreement over remedy. As a result, the building was not yet razed, but didn't need to be authorized for razing all over again.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-17-12-04 A Resolution Certifying that the Municipality did Suffer Significant Effects During the Program Base Year from Fisheries Business Activities that Occurred within the FMA 11: Norton Sound Fisheries Management Area.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt R-17-12-04.

Discussion:

- Councilman Brown asked if R-17-12-04 was placed before the Council for \$167.
- Manager Moran agreed it was a small amount of money, though the figure is in the tens of thousands and allocated to the Port budget.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. R-17-12-05 A Resolution Approving the Employment of Ava Earthman as Lifeguard I.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-17-12-05.

Discussion:

- Manager Moran cited NCO 2.45 in explaining employment of immediate family members of Department Heads must be approved by resolution.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

F. R-17-12-06 A Resolution Approving the Employment of Bode Leeper as Pool Clerical Helper.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-17-12-06.

Discussion:

- Manager Moran explained NCO 2.45 again as the reason for the resolution, though Bode Leeper would be in his father's Department, though under a different *direct* supervisor.
- Councilman M. Johnson clarified that the City was not creating a new position.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Assistant Utility Manager Morton presented his verbal report highlighting the reasons for recent damage to a communications line and that Jason West has been hired as operator/mechanic at the power plant.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- City Manager Moran presented his written report highlighting the abatement of the Polaris Hotel was performed by Q Trucking and suggested the site be considered for an in-town snow dump. He informed the Council of Christine Piscoya's promotion to Deputy City Clerk, the City Christmas party on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and Sergeant Stott's going away party. Manager Moran finished by alerting the Council to some pushback City Staff were receiving on taxicab licensing requirements.
  - Councilman Brown surmised the depression remaining in the Polaris lot was the responsibility of the property owner.
  - Mayor Beneville surmised a snow dump might create a hazard by blocking line of sight and creating a sledding hill for kids.
  - Manager Moran said that the snow dump would only be to street level.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- 1) Ken Hughes thanked the Council for their hard work throughout the year. He thanked the snow removal crew for their recent hard work in clearing the streets. Mr. Hughes ended by wishing the Council happy holidays.

### **COUNCILMEN'S COMMENTS**

- 1) Councilman D. Johnson – no comments.
- 2) Councilman M. Johnson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- 3) Councilman Martinson – no comments.
- 4) Councilman Andersen nominated the ABDC Volunteer Tax & Loan Program for NSEDC Community Benefits Share funding.
- 5) Councilman Brown expressed his hopes that DOC would provide sex offender treatment at AMCC as the Council had not approved the ordinance change allowing such services at Seaside. He requested staff and the City Attorney re-examine the excise tax on alcohol. He admitted there might not be support for the tax, though after years of being informed such a tax ran contrary to what was allowed through Alaska Statute Title 4, he wondered why the City of Anchorage was even discussing such.

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

- Mayor Beneville presented his verbal report, highlighting his attendance at the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee. He noted that Arctic transits had decreased through the Northwest Passage, yet substantially increased across the Russian Far North. Mayor Beneville expressed the need for the U.S. to be more proactive in developing its northern infrastructure and economy. He thanked Councilman Andersen for his proactive motion for the emergency abatement of the Polaris Hotel and Manager Moran for carrying the actions out. Mayor Beneville wished the public of Nome a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He thanked the Council for all their hard work, noting tonight's meeting as indicative of how difficult the job is.
- Mayor Beneville reappointed Jessica Farley to the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Martinson to confirm Commissioner Farley's reappointment.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- Mayor Beneville appointed Russell Rowe to the Port Commission.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Martinson to confirm Mr. Rowe's appointment.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:


The motion **CARRIED**.

**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 9:43 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018.

  
**RICHARD BENEVILLE**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
**BRYANT HAMMOND**  
City Clerk