

Mayor
Richard Beneville
Manager
Tom Moran
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



Nome City Council
Stan Andersen
Jerald Brown
Matt Culley
Louie Green, Sr.
Tom Sparks
Lew Tobin

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**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016 @ 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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- B. Email of April 12, 2016 from Helen Brohl to Mayor Beneville re: Thank You for the Hospitality,
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- C. Letter of April 14, 2016 from Norton Sound Area Organizations to Alaska State Legislators re: Substance Use Treatment Pilot Program,
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- D. Article of April 21, 2016 entitled "Alaska's rural pot market could be grounded before it even takes off,"
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- E. Letter of April 21, 2016 from Alaska DOT&PF to City of Nome re: Nome Bering Street Rehabilitation,
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- B. R-16-04-04 A Resolution Approving a Contract with Altman, Rogers & Co. for Audit Services for the Fiscal Year 2016,
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- B. R-16-04-05 A Resolution Honoring Caroline “Cussy” Reader Kauer for Service and Commitment to the City of Nome,
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XII. MAYOR’S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: April 12-25 2016,
VERBAL

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
NOME CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 25, 2016**

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: Stan Andersen; Jerald Brown; Matt Culley; Louie Green; Tom Sparks; Lew Tobin

Members Absent: N/A

Also Present: Richard Beneville, Mayor; Tom Moran, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; John Handeland, NJUS Manager; Julie Liew, Finance Director; John Papasodora, Police Chief

In the audience: Mitch Borden, KNOM; Sandra Medearis, Arctic News; Kent Runion; Shawn Arnold; Jodi Arnold; Sara Lizak; Doug Walrath; Deb Trowbridge; Michelle Harvey; Cameron Piscoya

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Culley; Green; Tobin; Sparks; Andersen

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 11, 2016 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Sparks and seconded by C. Brown to approve the minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: Green; Culley; Brown; Tobin; Sparks; Andersen

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter April 8, 2016 from Rasmuson Foundation to Manager Moran re: Final Grant Payment for Beringia Cultural Center.
 - Councilman Andersen asked if Beringia was the correct name and requested a project budget for the Richard Foster Building.
 - Manager Moran stated the name has since been changed to the Katirvik Cultural Center and said the budget would be in the next meeting packet.
- B. Email of April 12, 2016 from Helen Brohl to Mayor Beneville re: Thank You for the Hospitality.
- C. Letter of April 14, 2016 from Norton Sound Area Organizations to Alaska State Legislators re: Substance Use Treatment Pilot Program.
- D. Article of April 21, 2016 entitled "Alaska's rural pot market could be grounded before it even takes off."
 - Councilman Sparks asked if any Council action was required pertaining to marijuana licensing.
 - Manager Moran reminded the Council of the commercial marijuana ordinance passed in January and that the Council also served as the local marijuana control board. No action is currently needed.
- E. Letter of April 21, 2016 from Alaska DOT&PF to City of Nome re: Nome Bering Street Rehabilitation.
 - Councilman Andersen requested a written report on how Nome Joint Utilities and Public Works will coordinate with DOT&PF to avoid digging up the same section of road to repair the water / sewer system in the near future.
 - Councilman Culley asked if Councilman Andersen would turn down the funding if such coordination was not feasible and stated the State wouldn't hold the funds pending such coordination with the City of Nome.
 - Councilman Tobin asked when the project was happening.
 - Councilman Culley stated it would probably happen in the next few years.
- F. Flyer re: Spring Clean-Up in Nome from May 28 – June 5, 2016.
 - Mayor Beneville summarized a citizen's request of extending the length of the Spring Clean-up and clarified that bicycles were part of the raffle.
 - Manager Moran stated seven bikes were being raffled off this year.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Deb Trowbridge explained that the HeadStart program was losing two certified teacher positions due to budget cuts. Ms. Trowbridge requested the City consider supporting the HeadStart program by funding these two positions. She went on to cite the benefits of early education and listed factors, such as certified teachers, pertinent to program success.
 - Councilman Andersen asked Ms. Trowbridge to repeat the request in writing.
- 2) Shawn Arnold noted that Ms. Trowbridge's statement was accurate, as Nome Public Schools was legally not able to use K – 12 money for preschool funding. He informed the Council that the school's F17 budget was forthcoming to the Finance Department. The School District has recently finished spring negotiations with the Teachers' Association, creating a salary redistribution that's more equitable to new teachers. Mr. Arnold outlined

some of the community engagement, outreach and teacher appreciation activities planned for the next month.

- Councilman Tobin commended the Superintendent's enthusiasm.
- Councilman Andersen requested a copy of the Superintendent's contract and asked for details pertaining to the legislative staffing cut to the District.
- Mr. Arnold explained the \$268,000 cut funded two teachers at HeadStart and one at the Preschool.

3) Sara Lizak reiterated her comments from the March 28th City Council meeting on the vacant properties ordinance, asking the Council to pass it. Ms. Lizak referenced the 2014 Zoning Code and Enforcement Survey results in support of her request.

- Councilman Andersen expressed skepticism of the actual number of complaints, stating the response rate for the survey was low.
- Ms. Lizak stated there were about 100 responses, most of which were directed towards junk accumulating on people's properties. She noted the City of Nome's Real Property Assessor confirmed that neglected properties decrease the value of surrounding properties.
- Councilman Sparks was pleased a definition for "junk" was included.
- Manager Moran noted that six changes were made administratively, in response to concerns raised by the Council at the April 5th work session.
- Councilman Sparks reiterated his concern about residents that winter elsewhere and how they might fit into the fine schedule, should something happen to their property while they were out of town.
- Councilman Culley stated he fully supported the ordinance because it addresses public health and safety issues, the current housing shortage, and contributes to the beautification of the City.
- Councilman Andersen suggested the public take pictures of what they want abated.
- Councilman Tobin stated he had heard people were not getting permits because they couldn't afford to do the upkeep.
- Councilman Green asked if the Planning Commission kept track of population trends and noted that people seemed to be leaving in droves.

4) Michelle Harvey expressed concern that Nome Public Schools couldn't fund the two certified teacher positions at HeadStart.

5) John Handeland recalled when he and Cussy Kauer used a City loader to go door-to-door picking up trash in 1987, thus beginning "you call; we haul." He complimented the program but suggested it happen more often and that going door-to-door would be efficacious in persuading people to clean up their properties. Mr. Handeland also described his recent efforts to remove graffiti at Rainbow Park and took the opportunity to remind everyone that if everyone pitched in, it would go a long way.

6) Cameron Piscoya asked the Common Council to consider funding the two certified teachers at Early HeadStart.

PLANNING AND ZONING

N/A

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-16-04-01 An Ordinance Amending Title 5, Buildings and Construction, of the Nome Code of Ordinances to Add a New Chapter 5.40 Establishing Vacant Structure Registration and Maintenance Regulations and Adopting the 2009 IBC International Property Maintenance Code, **FIRST READING**

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Sparks to advance O-16-04-01.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Culley; Green; Tobin; Sparks; Andersen

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-16-04-04 A Resolution Approving a Contract with Altman, Rogers & Co. for Audit Services for the Fiscal Year 2016.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Tobin to approve R-16-04-04.

Discussion:

- Councilman Andersen asked if the cost estimate was normal.
- Finance Director Liew stated the average over the past five years has been about \$66,000, including out-of-pocket costs.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Culley; Green; Tobin; Sparks; Andersen

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-16-04-05 A Resolution Honoring Caroline "Cussy" Reader Kauer for Service and Commitment to the City of Nome.

A motion was made by C. Andersen and seconded by C. Sparks to approve R-16-04-05.

Discussion:

- Councilman Andersen explained that Ms. Kauer held the Council and City Staff to a high fiscal standard and had the foresight to create and add to the City's savings. He requested that language be added to the resolution to reflect these assets.

- Richard Beneville remarked that Ms. Kauer's grandmother did the same job decades before and asked staff to find a suitable token of appreciation for her.

At the roll call:

Aye: Andersen; Brown; Culley; Green; Sparks; Tobin

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

N/A

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Utility Manager Handeland referred to his written report, noting that a bill altering the Power Cost Equalization program is currently in the legislature. The proposed bill would use some of the PCE endowment to fund the Revenue Sharing program. Manager Handeland was not sure the bill would pass.
 - Councilman Andersen reiterated his request of a report on the water / sewer laterals and mains on Bering St and the potential coordination with DOT&PF to ensure the same areas are not dug up year after year. He also asked where the \$108,000 and \$500,000 Manager Handeland noted in his report as going into savings came from.
 - Manager Handeland stated the funds were left over from FY15.
 - Councilman Andersen requested a report on the status of the Moonlight Springs replacement project.
 - Councilman Andersen expressed concern over soil compaction issues on East End.
 - Manager Handeland explained there was a natural ice lens under East End and it wasn't the best place to have expanded the City. He noted gaps left from melting ice 4th and N St.
 - Councilman Tobin asked if the Utility filled these gaps in for property owners in the vicinity.
 - Manager Handeland stated the Utility did not make a practice of it, though they notify the property owners.
 - Councilman Tobin expressed concern over Quintillion's digging near power poles along the Council Road.
 - Manager Handeland stated that DOT&PF has responsibility over permitting work in that right-of-way. NJUS has been in discussions with Quintillion; both they and their contractor are aware of the issues residents have raised concerning the excavation work performed for cable burial.
 - Councilman Culley stated that compaction has not been performed properly and the Utility will have issues in the future because of it.
 - Councilman Sparks requested a status report on the Pilgrim Power project.
 - Manager Handeland explained that Pilgrim Geothermal LLC was evaluating different means of transmission and battery storage; however, it is not likely the company will meet the "drop dead" date of 12/31/16 as outlined in the City Attorney's memorandum dated March 25, 2014.
 - Councilman Sparks inquired about the purchasing more fuel while prices were low.

- Manager Handeland explained that prices were slowly rising and that he will know what space will be available between now and delivery. He stated he will keep the Council informed.
- Finance Director Liew asked if the NJUS board had looked at creating a debt service account, stating it was suggested by DEC.
- Manager Handeland explained that debt service is handled in NJUS's operating budget and that DEC has been making similar suggestions for 15 years.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Manager Moran noted two hires with the City of Nome: Katie Spoden and Scott Payenna.
- Manager Moran explained the City will be cutting \$273,000 from the budget for FY17 and recommended against funding the early childhood education positions that were requested during Citizens' Comments.
- Regarding upcoming scheduling, Manager Moran noted the Board of Equalization will meet, if needed, on May 4th; the Ad Hoc Cemetery Committee will meet on May 5th; there will be an NVAD appreciation dinner on May 6th; and there will be a work session on the vacant properties ordinance on May 9th.
 - Mayor Beneville clarified that the cemetery committee will be doing a walk-through of the cemetery prior to the meeting.
 - Councilman Andersen requested a map of the route the Quintillion Fiber project is taking.
 - Councilman Andersen requested an update on tax revenue for the current year.
 - Finance Director Liew confirmed that revenue may be a little short this year.
 - Councilman Andersen requested a master list of vehicle condition from the mechanic on contract with a better description of "good/bad/fair."
 - Councilman Andersen asked for a status update on the HeadStart Building.
 - Manager Moran explained how conversations were ongoing with Kawerak.
 - Councilman Andersen asked for the Garco Building estimate.
 - Manager Moran stated he would pass the estimate to Councilman Andersen; however, due to the fiscal situation, it is unlikely any funds will be put towards the project in FY17.
 - Councilman Sparks asked when the Vehicle Contract was up.
 - Manager Moran stated the bid package would go out sometime in May, but the contract is not up until June. Administration will take Council suggestions into account when preparing the bid package.
 - Councilman Culley asked if revenue was on track for the year.
 - Finance Director Liew stated the City will miss the sales tax mark, though bigger payments, such as the NJUS PILOT will be coming in over the coming two months.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- 1) Chief Papasodora stated the good/fair/poor was an accurate assessment of the NPD vehicle condition. The Chief gave the Council year-to-date statistics and explained the new bail schedule, SB91, and the potential impacts on law enforcement in the City of Nome.
 - Councilman Sparks asked if the City could do anything locally.
 - Probably not, Chief Papasodora explained; the bill is primarily a cost saving measure aimed at reducing defendants in pretrial.
 - Councilman Andersen requested City Staff send a letter stating the City's position on the bill.

COUNCILMEN'S COMMENTS

- 1) Councilman Andersen stated that the City needed to take the largest offending landowners to task with respect to the vacant properties ordinance.
- 2) Councilman Brown – no comment.
- 3) Councilman Culley reiterated his favorable position on the vacant properties ordinance, stating it addresses housing issues and is a step in the right direction.
- 4) Councilman Green – no comment.
- 5) Councilman Sparks stated that the zoning situation is better now than it used to be. He was happy a definition of “junk” was included in the ordinance. Councilman Sparks explained he favored carrots and tax breaks to punitive action and that he still wanted to examine the fine schedules with respect to out-of-town landowners.
- 6) Councilman Tobin stated that Dale Whitley, fabricator of the gold pan in Anvil City Square, was doing well at age 89 in the Philippines. He asked for an update on the Mayor’s discussion with Nancy McGuire at the Nome Nugget and let the Council know he will be out of town between May 10 and May 30.
 - Mayor Beneville stated that the conversation was progressing.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Beneville highlighted the Port discussion in his report, noting that the \$1.6 million was not assured. He noted it was a lot of money, though the investment would be part of needed economic diversification for the State of Alaska.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


N/A

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 8:49 PM.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 9th day of May, 2016.



RICHARD BENEVILLE
Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Hammond', written over a horizontal line.

BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk