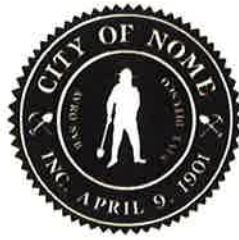


**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland  
**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman  
**Clerk**  
Bryant Hammond



**Nome City Council**  
Jerald Brown  
Doug Johnson  
Mark Johnson  
Adam Martinson  
Jennifer Reader  
Meghan Sigvanna Topkok

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 at 7:05 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

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

---

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Jerald Brown (telephonic); Doug Johnson (telephonic); Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson (telephonic); Jennifer Reader (telephonic); Meghan Topkok (telephonic)

**Members Absent:**

**Also Present:** John Handeland, Mayor; Zoe Okleasik, Youth Representative (telephonic); Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Mike Heintzelman, Police Chief; Bob Pruckner, Deputy Chief of Polic; Emily Hofstaedter, KNOM; Ken Hughes

**In the audience:** ~10 Zoom participants

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Reader to amend the agenda by moving Manager's Report B to communications and eliminating Mayor's Report B.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

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

Nay:  
Abstain:

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 14, 2020 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by M. Johnson and seconded D. Johnson to approve the December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader noted a typo on page 7 of 8 of the minutes.

At the roll call:  
Aye: Martinson; Reader; Topkok; Brown; D. Johnson; M. Johnson  
Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### COMMUNICATIONS

A. Memorandum of January 7, 2021 from Acting Finance Director Crowe to Manager Steckman re: FY21 Draft Revenue and Expense Reports at 12/31/20.

- Finance Director Crowe noted a 3.4 million gap between revenue and expense in the general fund, noting it was 1.2 million and 1.3 million in FY19 and FY20 respectively. She explained the gap was due to CARES act funding's impact on salaries and benefits on the budget.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked if it was possible to present a draft balance sheet when financials are presented. He commended the speed at which staff were able to present the financials.
- Manager Steckman said it would be easier at the end of the month, rather than the beginning. He noted other closeouts and finance staff working overtime to keep up with the CARES act programs.

B. CARES Act Funds Report.

- Director Crowe discussed the status of CARES Act funds, noting the non-encumbered balance of \$227,000.
- Manager Steckman gave further details on the status of CARES act funds, explaining there may be more funds available after all applications have been processed. He noted that all the funds for the proposed Rec Center improvements have been redirected to other programs.
- Mayor Handeland noted the extension in the deadline for spending CARES Act funds, asking if the Council would like to discuss the matter further or so so at a later work session.

- Manager Steckman requested the Council take a pause to see where the City stands before making any immediate decisions. He noted some developments in guidance on allowable spending.
- Mayor Handeland agreed it makes sense to understand where the City stands.
- Council Member Brown agreed on waiting and suggested Iditarod as a good time to pick the matter up again.
- Mayor Handeland noted the possibility of congress allocating more funding.

#### CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None given.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-21-01-01 A Resolution Allocating the 2020 NSEDC End-Year Community Benefit Share Funds.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-21-01-01.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman discussed the history of NSEDC funding and the City's use of such. He discussed the priorities of HVAC system upgrades, noting City Hall as the number 2 priority and easier to accomplish than the more expensive Rec Center.
- Council Member Reader asked if this was the same pot of funds as the resolution passed last meeting. She asked how much the full amount of upgrades would cost.
- Manager Steckman explained previous end year funds and that the NSEDC funds would be used as matching funds seeking other grants.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked COVID funds would cover this.
- Manager Steckman explained the CARES funds were originally pitched towards HVAC upgrades, but the CARES Act funds were pushed out into the community instead.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked if the funds could be used for switching the pool from salt water back to chlorine.
- Manager Steckman explained his understanding of pool design and that changing designs becomes problematic. He noted the pool repairs are complete for a salt water system and hasn't had a discussion yet with Director Leeper on future direction.
- Council Members Topkok, Martinson, and Brown all agreed both City Hall and the Rec Center needed upgrades.
- Council Member Doug Johnson opined there was higher traffic of citizens at City Hall than at the pool.
- Manager Steckman opined that the pool might be easier to obtain grant funding.
- Council Member Mark Johnson requested more debate.
- Mayor Handeland suggested a work session sometime before the next meeting.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to postpone R-21-01-01 to the January 25, 2021 Regular Meeting.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

#### UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: December 15, 2020 - January 8, 2021.
- Assistant Utility Manager Morton updated the Council on COVID vaccinations for NJU crews and noted no NJU personnel currently in quarantine.
  - NJUS is actively working on the budget and should be coming to the council in the coming weeks.
  - The line crew is replacing LED fixtures, starting on East N St. and continuing towards Front St.
  - The active leak at Bering and 2<sup>nd</sup> was taking longer to address than expected due to difficulty in isolating the leak.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: December 15, 2020 - January 8, 2021.
- Manager Steckman noted the report went out via email over the weekend. He explained Emergency Order 13 (EO 2021-01) with the expiration of bars and public spaces. He explained the form is now being administered by NSHC and takes vaccinations into account.
  - Thirty-two City of Nome personnel have now received the 2<sup>nd</sup> shot. Nobody was required but everybody was encouraged. He explained the ID card, and request for a COVID-19 quick test over concerns of being vaccinated but possibly remaining a carrier. He praised NSHC's efforts on the ground in Anchorage.
  - Manager Steckman noted the drop in guests at NEST over the COVID-19 pandemic. However, he noted an increase in the challenges people have been facing as well, through drug and alcohol issues in addition to others.
  - He commended the finance staff for their hard work in pushing out CARES Act funds and noted there was no need for an executive session.
  - Council Member Reader asked for clarification on the quarantine policy.
  - Manager Steckman noted that people who've had COVID-19 are traveling and not subject to quarantine. He noted that this should be added and that administrative staff would discuss.

- Mayor Handeland asked for a clearer copy, noting the vaccination adds a bonus of not needing to quarantine.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked if the City was contracting with the Hospital.
- Manager Steckman explained that the process was about the same, only the hospital was handling the information. He noted that paper forms were dwindling to almost nothing in person.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked how long the MCC would be used.
- Manager Steckman noted there was meeting on Monday concerning the issue.

C. Monthly PD Report/Capital Projects Update--January 2021.

- Port Director Baker noted a significant milestone for the Deep Draft Port project on December 27<sup>th</sup> when the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act which included the Port of Nome modification project. She noted Federal funding still needed to be appropriated and non-federal match still needed to be identified.
- She gave an update on the CAP 107 project explained that a late sediment sampling and harbor survey assisted the Port in staying on schedule.
- Director Baker discussed the launch ramp repair project, noting the Port has come up with a modified approach that would reduce some of the more expensive aspects while allowing the Port to seek additional funding.
- In relation to the Port Rd improvements project, ADOT should have another set of plans out for review and was looking at a midsummer bid and 2022 construction season.
- Mayor Handeland thanked Joy for the alacrity with which she has pursued Port Development.

D. Emergency Order No. 2021-01.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None given.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

- 1) Council Member Brown – no comments.
- 2) Council Member Doug Johnson – no comments.
- 3) Council Member Mark Johnson – no comments.
- 4) Council Member Martinson asked for an update on Mr. Harrison's request to put City-owned lots up for sale.
  - Mayor Handeland suggested asking the Planning Commission if some lots were needed for a future project.
- 5) Council Member Reader – no comments.
- 6) Council Member Topkok wished everyone quvianagli ukiutchiaq (happy new year in Inupiaq) and thanked City Staff.
- 7) Youth Representative Okleasik – no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: December 15, 2020 - January 8, 2021.
- Mayor Handeland noted heated discussion on Facebook about Iditarod not finishing in Nome and explained the decision from the Board of Director's perspective. He noted the concerns expressed in the region's villages. No Iditarod finish in Nome was unfortunate, but he noted the Iron Dog still on and he was still looking for people to come up with some plans for entertainment during March. He solicited ideas, suggesting a small work group address the issue.
  - He thanked Randy Oles and members of the Nome Volunteer Fire Department for the fireworks display on New Years Eve.
  - He discussed COVID-19 vaccination shots, the Mini Convention Center and homeless issues, noting that Nome Community Center operates NEST and emphasized the good work they do around town.
  - Mayor Handeland opined he should put appointments to the Public Safety Advisory Commission on hold for a few weeks, hoping to meet with commissioners for a one year report.
- C. Appointment of Colleen Deighton to Seat A of the Nome Planning Commission.
- Mayor Handeland appointed Colleen Deighton to Seat of the Nome Planning Commission.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Reader to confirm Mayor Handeland's appointment.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Discussion of Personnel Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which May Have an Adverse Affect on City Finances.
- The Nome Common Council did not recess into executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 8:33 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021

  
**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
**Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
**CHRISTINE PISCOYA**  
**Deputy City Clerk**