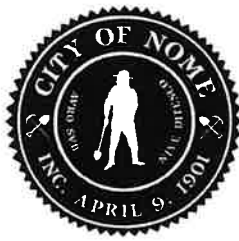


Mayor
John K. Handeland
Manager
Glenn Steckman
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



Nome Common Council
Jerald Brown
Scot Henderson
Doug Johnson
Mark Johnson
Adam Martinson
Meghan Sigvanna Topkok

NOME COMMON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022 at 6:00 / 7:25 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL

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

WORK SESSION: 6:00

- A. O-22-02-08 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3.05 to Include Prohibition on the Sale of Alcohol, Including Limiting Hours of Sale, and to Require Security at Package Stores.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Scot Henderson; Doug Johnson; Mark Johnson;

Members Absent: Adam Martinson (excused); Sigvanna Topkok (excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, Clerk; Mike Heintzelman, NPD Chief; Bob Pruckner, NPD Deputy Chief; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (Teams)

In the audience: Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget; Chuck Fagerstrom; Greg Smith; Rhonda Schneider; Cole Cushman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. January 24, 2022 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to approve the minutes with a minor administrative edit.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Brown; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of January 25, 2022 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Board of Trade Saloon Liquor License Renewal.
- B. Letter of January 28, 2022 from Division of Elections to City Clerk re: Ranked Choice Voting Flyers.
- C. Letter of January 31, 2022 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Milanos Liquor License Renewal.
- D. Letter of February 2, 2022 from Nome Preschool Association to City Council re: 2022 City of Nome Budget.
- E. Letter of January 14, 2022 from Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to City of Nome re: Population Determination for FY23 DCCED Financial Assistance.
 - Council Member Mark Johnson asked how the number compared to the Census data.
 - Manager Steckman gave an explanation of the census count and his take on the discrepancy between the State's and the Fed's numbers.
 - Mayor Handeland noted the deadline and suggested asking for the data that backs up the number.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Rhonda Schneider discussed the Iditarod Arch as the previous congregating spot on Front St and noted that when the Arch was moved, the homeless did not follow it. They remained on Front St. She suggested asking them why they hang out on Front St, noting they readily answer questions posed by NEST staff. She expressed concern over the City requiring a business hire a security or patrol guard, saying it intrudes a little on business self management.

2. Chuck Fagerstrom asked how the governing body could consider making life more difficult for 98% of the population to correct the behavior of 2%. He argued there was a lack in the enforcement of current ordinances. He asked what it would take for the City to entertain a City-owned package store and cited several benefits. He suggested the community overreacted to the illness aspect of the problem, without expectation of anything in return. He suggested a City-owned liquor store would provide adequate control.
3. Greg Smith thanked the Council for discussing alcohol issues. He discussed unintended consequences of prohibition of liquor sales, pointing to Kotzebue as an example. He discussed the decrease in calls, citing the Housing Authority paying for people to stay at the Nugget.
4. Chuck Fagerstrom discussed the situation prior to the City-owned liquor store as out of control.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-22-02-01 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 General Fund Municipal Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**
- B. O-22-02-02 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 School Debt Service Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**
- C. O-22-02-03 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 Special Revenue Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**
- D. O-22-02-04 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**
- E. O-22-02-05 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 Port of Nome Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**
- F. O-22-02-06 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 Port of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. M. Johnson to advance O-22-02-01, O-22-02-02, O-22-02-03, O-22-02-04, O-22-02-05, & O-22-02-06.

Discussion:

- Council Member Henderson noted the increased sales tax.
- Manager Steckman discussed the improvement in the economy, citing sales and bed tax, and asked the Council to leave the sales tax for the summer at 7%
- Mayor Handeland requested graphs and figures for the budget.

- Manager Steckman attributed some the increase to the online sales tax sales tax collection, discussing advances made over the past year.
- Council Member Henderson asked about the sale of fixed assets, the purchase of property and the significant increase in officer overtime.
- Finance Director Crowe and Manager Steckman explained the sale of east end lots, the purchase of the Boucher lots. Manager Steckman gave a brief explanation for overtime expenses.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

G. O-22-02-07 An Ordinance Adopting the Port of Nome Tariff No. 16.2 to Replace All Existing Tariffs of the Port of Nome, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Brown to advance O-22-02-07.

Discussion:

- Port Director Baker gave an overview of the changes focused upon in the tariff. She noted the CPI adjustment and the graduated gravel pricing, explaining the pricing is based on individual project volumes. She noted the discussion would come up again on Thursday and if clarity was needed, she would come back with such from the Commission.
- Council Member Henderson asked about the original rates being addressed in the present proposed changes, trying to ascertain the differences.
- Director Baker noted that a potential limit of two seasons would be added (due to the inability for a single project to sometimes not conclude entirely in one season). She discussed the intent of the graduated rate.
- Council Member Henderson asked for clarity to avoid disagreements in the future and asked if there was a fiscal note attached to the proposed changes. He asked for an analysis, noting gravel is a major commodity revenue-wise for the port.
- Director Baker noted it was worked on, but noted erratic years and difficulty in choosing a "normal." She noted the Commission was confident in the number they resolved to but would put something together.
- Council Member Henderson discussed the rates, appreciating the attempts to incentivize greater volume, but asked how Nome's gravel rates were competitive across western AK.
- Director Baker noted Seward rates were \$1 a ton, but there were many factors. She noted a source in the Pribilofs, but couldn't speak to the quantity available. She noted if not sourced out of Nome, gravel comes from Seward or Anacortes, WA.

- Council Member Henderson asked the steep discounts were necessary to maintain gravel business in Nome.
- Director Baker opined it was not, though some discounts should be afforded.
- Manager Steckman noted what was before them was what the Port Commission placed before the Council. He discussed the hope of shipping more material, which would create more jobs in Nome.
- Council Member Henderson asked about the vote on the amendment to the proposed changes.
- Council Member Mark Johnson explained the barges originate down south, which increases costs of shipping.
- Council Member Brown discussed the dynamics of rock shipments up and down the west coast he learned at his previous place of employment. He asked if portions of the costs were being accounted for.
- Manager Steckman discussed the outcome of the vote at the special meeting.
- Director Baker discussed the voting dynamics and noted the minutes would be in the 2/28 packet.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

H. Appeal of Chauffeur's License Denial.

- Council Member Brown and Mayor Handeland discussed past practice in such matters.
- The Council agreed to move the matter to the end of the meeting.

I. R-22-02-01 A Resolution Amending the Existing Employment Agreement Between the City of Nome and Glenn Steckman for the Position of City Manager.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-22-02-01.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- J. R-22-02-02 A Resolution Designating Charles "Chip" Leeper as Acting City Manager for April 27 to May 9, 2022.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-22-02-02.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- K. R-22-02-03 A Resolution of the Nome Common Council Authorizing the Expenditure of \$14,100 for the Nome Police Department to Pursue Accreditation.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-22-02-03.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman gave an overview of the intent of the resolution, noting some might be spent in the next fiscal year, depending on the process. He brought down the expense by line item.
- Council Member Mark Johnson stated his support for accreditation, but asked about ongoing costs.
- Manager Steckman noted it was already in the budget, a new officer with accreditation as part of their defined duties, with \$2,500 per year in membership and an audit occurring every 3 years. He noted the Public Safety Advisory Commission has been after him to get it on the agenda

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- L. R-22-02-04 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with RSA Engineering, Inc. to Design Upgrades to Nome City Hall and Recreation Center Heating & Ventilation Systems.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-22-02-04.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman noted management's support for this, discussing the 2nd boiler at the Recreation Center is now failing.
- City Engineer Blees discussed the overarching goal of the project.
- Council Member Henderson clarified this is just design and asked if there was another RFP.
- Manager Steckman explained.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Henderson; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: January 25 - February 11, 2022.

- Mayor Handeland noted nothing aside from routine processes to report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: January 25 - February 11, 2022.

- Manager Steckman discussed 6 kits ordered for radon and discussed the process for which council members would get selected to meet with federal officials are in town. He explained staff would go down a list alphabetically, noting the first two that were available would be selected.
- He noted the list of projects that need to be discussed over the coming years, highlighting the plans for the Recreation Center bathroom rebuilds.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Rhonda Schneider discussed the expansion of the community garden and solicited volunteers to get seeds started in window sills. She noted the materials on the way and asked for names and contact info. She discussed a facebook page of interested gardeners and an article in a previous newspaper.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Mark Johnson asked Manager Steckman about the legislative budget for donations, saying it would be appropriate to consider making a donation to the Richard Beneville Endowment with the Nome Arts Council.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to donate \$1,000 to the Richard Beneville Endowment.

Discussion:

- Council Member Doug Johnson opined it would be appropriate noting Richard contributed quite a lot to the community.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to amend the main motion by increasing the donation to \$5,000.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

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

- Council Member Mark Johnson opined the community has a great SAR/NVFD/NVAD, explaining that during the wind storm someone was stranded down the coast and four guys went out in the terrible weather to bring the himback. He wanted to point out their volunteerism for the town and the region and give kudos to their generosity. He asked about the Corps of Engineers community meeting and the Corps' advertising methods. He asked staff to encourage the Corps to do a better job of outreach.

2. Council Member Brown – no comments.

3. Council Member Henderson requested a work session for the process of developing incentives for private industry to increase investment in housing in Nome, suggesting policies such as granting a period of time for waiver of property tax for the construction triplexes or larger, a waiver of all fees for the construction of housing, any fees the city charges, reduced or waived fees on the utility side. He asked what would it take to incentivize new housing. He noted this wouldn't cost the City any money as it's new housing. He noted the urgency with the Port Project.

- Council Member Mark Johnson noted numerous vacant structures and suggested incentivizing the remodeling of the those.
4. Council Member Doug Johnson asked for an update with the GARCO building.
 5. Youth Representative Hebel wished everyone a Happy Valentines Day.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: January 25 - February 11, 2022.
 - Mayor Handeland went over the Corps community meeting, their 20,000 ft overview of the project, hoping to ensure that the public was aware of how the project was progressing. It's not the end of the public process, just one meeting in the design phase. He opined there was good representation from other parts of the community at the meeting.
 - He noted the online applications available for the NSEDC subsidy saying Amanda Patrick at NSEDC is available to help. He noted Iditarod upcoming and plans were being made for a safe celebration of the 50th anniversary of the race. He called attention to next tuesday's work session on alcohol ordinances.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Discussion of Legal Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which May Have Adverse Impacts on City Finances.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Brown to enter into executive session to discuss legal matters that may have adverse impacts on the City of Nome.

The Council entered into executive session at 9:01.

The Council came out of executive session at 9:57.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. M. Johnson to grant the Chauffeur Denial Appeal of Harold Ahmasuk III.

At the roll call:

Aye:

Nay: Brown; Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson

Abstain:

The motion **FAILED**.

The Council directed City Attorney Cacciola to draft the appeal's findings of fact and conclusions of law to be presented at the February 28, 2022 regular meeting.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Brown to enter into executive session to discuss legal matters the immediate knowledge of which may have adverse impacts on City of Nome finances.

The Council went into executive session at 9:57 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 10:21 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 10:22 PM.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 28th day of February, 2022


JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:



BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk