

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 28, 2022 at 5:30 / 7:08 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 - 5:30 PM

Discussion of City of Nome & Nome Public Schools Budget Priorities.

- A. Draft FY23 CIPs - City of Nome.
- B. FY24 CIP EED Six Year Plan.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Scot Henderson; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Sigvanna Topkok

Members Absent: Doug Johnson, (excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, Clerk; Mike Heintzelman, NPD Chief

In the audience: Diana Haecker, KNOM; Rhonda Schneider; Cole Cushman; Paul G. Kosto; Rob Luce; Ken Hughes; Cheri McConnell; Rodney Jones;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to amend the agenda by adding New Business D: R-22-02-07 A Resolution Endorsing Projects for the City of Nome's 2022 Federal Legislative Priorities and an Executive Session to Discuss Legal Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which May Have Adverse Impacts on City Finances,

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 14, 2022 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the February 14, 2022 minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letter of February 18, 2022 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Transfer of Retail Marijuana Store License Application.

- The Council discussed the process the City takes with respect to such notices and the difference between a renewal and a transfer and whether or not a motion is needed.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the license transfer.

Discussion:

- The Council discussed the consequences of a failed vote.

With approval of the second, the motion was withdrawn.

- B. Email of February 21, 2022 from Adam Lust to Council Member Johnson re: Comments on O-22-02-08/09/10/11.
- C. Memo from Clerk Hammond to Mayor & Common Council re: Taxicab Licenses.
 - Clerk Hammond briefed the Council on the status of taxicab licenses in Nome.
 - Mayor Handeland invited RJ Jones to comment.
 - Mr. Jones discussed the taxi business and competition between cab companies, citing the abandoned licenses as the biggest obstacle his company faces.
 - Mayor Handeland asked how many cabs Checker was running currently.
 - Mr. Jones discussed the four cabs he was running and said business was dead.
 - Rob Luce, owner of Mr. Kab, discussed his current situation and his desire to get the cabs going again.
 - The Council requested that staff pick up where they left off with the appeal hearing.
- D. FY 2023 City of Nome Budget Calendar.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Cheri McConnell, Nome Liaison for Quintillion, discussed Quintillion's commitment to the Bering Strait Region and presented her letter regarding Port development and potential partnerships.
2. Rhonda Schneider, Nome Community Center, discussed the background to new business C, describing the intent of the fund and how it would be managed.
 - Council Member Henderson asked if NCC would apply to the trust for its current project.
 - Ms. Schneider replied probably not, as policies will need to be put together first.
3. Ken Hughes thanked NVAD for responding to a fire at his son's house in February. He thanked NPD for the patrol unit going through Lester Bench.
4. Paul Kosto discussed NPD Call For Service data that he discussed at the previous week's work session. He noted the trend/curve in the current data was the same as when the hours of the package stores were decreased during the COVID shut down.
 - Mayor Handeland asked if the Fire Department handed out smoke alarms.
 - Mr. Kosto noted that NVFD installs smoke detectors and that the American Red Cross has chosen Nome as a community that would receive boots on the ground assistance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-22-02-01 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 General Fund Municipal Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:39 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:39 PM.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to adopt O-22-02-01.

At the roll call:

Aye: Topkok; Brown; Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. O-22-02-02 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 School Debt Service Fund, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:41 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:41 PM.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt O-22-02-02.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. O-22-02-03 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 Special Revenue Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:42 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:42 PM.

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

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. O-22-02-04 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 Capital Projects Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:43 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:44 PM.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt O-22-02-04.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. O-22-02-05 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 Port of Nome Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:44 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:44 PM.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by Henderson to adopt O-22-02-05.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to amend O-22-02-05 per Finance Director Crowe's memo in the packet.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Topkok; Brown; Henderson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

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

- F. O-22-02-06 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2022 Port of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:47 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:47 PM.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt O-22-02-06.

At the roll call:

Aye: Topkok; Brown; Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson

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, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:53 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:53 PM.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt O-22-02-07.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman discussed the costs on the public works department of facilitating greater volumes of gravel and crushed aggregate through the port.

He introduced Cole Cushman, the Director of Public Works, to discuss wear and tear on vehicles and equipment, noting if the next summer went the same as last year, that 6 sidedumps would be running 90 hours - 1 truck every three minutes - making it difficult for road crew to address roads at the Port. He asked the Council to regulate the speed at which trucks can travel, and schedule a break for road crew to address needs, as well as require a traffic plan to keep congestion down.

- Mayor Handeland and Port Director BakerJKH discussed publication timelines and the need to get rate changes out to port users.
- Manager Steckman noted Joy's work in presenting the fiscal note to the Council and had asked Mr. Cushman to reach out to Joy so that all costs are factored in.
- Director Baker further discussed the impact on traffic on the Port.
- Council Member M. Johnson asked if Mr. Cushman's requests can be taken care of administratively or with the tariff and what a delay would do to Port users and the commission.
- Director Baker spoke to Mr. Cushman's points, noting many could be taken care of under existing authorities. She noted that publication in March, the earlier the better, was preferable, opined the Commission could address the concerns, but hopefully not on the 28th.
- Council Member Brown asked if the Port took an active role in ensuring the trucks were not overloaded. He asked how the wharfage fee was calculated. He asked if the Port could insist on seeing the individual load tickets.
- Director Baker explained the Port doesn't have a set of scales to check but they could.
- Council Member Henderson asked if cutting rates took these expenses into account.
- Director Baker explained the gravel calculations in the memo.
- The Council discussed the rate of discount for volume and the pros and cons of reducing the tariff rate for gravel.
- Manager Steckman put it in perspective, saying the costs Mr. Cushman noted were \$.13 per ton.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. M. Johnson to amend O-22-02-07, selecting alternative no. 2 presented by Port staff establishing the maximum volume-related discount to be 80 percent of the base rate of \$2.23.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Topkok; Brown

Nay: Henderson; Martinson

Abstain:

The motion **FAILED**.

Returning to the main motion

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Henderson to amend O-22-02-07 selecting alternative no. 1 presented by Port staff establishing the maximum volume-related discount to be 85 percent of the base rate of \$2.23.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok

Nay:

Abstain:

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

H. ITMO: Harold Ahmasuk III Chauffeur License Renewal Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Brown to adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the matter of: Harold Ahmasuk III's Chauffeur License Renewal Appeal.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Topkok; Brown; Henderson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

A. O-22-02-08 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3.05 Limiting Hours of Sale at Package Stores, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Brown to advance O-22-02-08.

Discussion:

- Council Member Henderson expressed his support, arguing shorter hours equals less calls for service and less strain on city resources.
- Council Members M. Johnson and Martinson noted they heard different data, citing Mr. Kosto's citizens comments.

At the roll call:

Aye: Topkok; Brown; Henderson

Nay: M. Johnson; Martinson

Abstain:

The motion **FAILED**.

B. R-22-02-05 A Resolution Setting the Dates for the 2022 Board of Equalization.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt R-22-02-05.

At the roll call:

Aye: Brown; Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

C. R-22-02-06 A Resolution of the City of Nome Supporting the Alaska Affordable Housing Trust.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-22-02-06.

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

D. R-22-02-07 A Resolution Endorsing Projects for the City of Nome's 2022 Federal Legislative Priorities.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-22-02-07.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman discussed the priorities and the intent of focusing on two main priorities. He discussed the Port and the contribution the City needs to pick up. He noted 5% in reduction would be a significant amount.
- He explained it would take 27 billion dollars to address the current housing needs in AK and discussed the challenges in housing he's seen over the past several months.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: February 15 - 25, 2022.

- Mayor Handeland explained that 98% of meters have been changed out and are working great.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: February 15 - 25, 2022.

- Manager Steckman explained that unified command (COVID) was recommending moving to an endemic situation and to turn over the management to the residents, while offering home test kits and face masks after Iditarod.
- He discussed the current national guard exercise as planned for many months and set to dispel any false rumors that it was mobilized due to the crisis in Ukraine. They are the first mobilized and the first to arrive in the case of a local disaster. He noted a total influx of about 100 people into town.
- Manager Steckman discussed current efforts at planning in Nome: the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Emergency Operations Plan (currently not funded), the Historic Preservation Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, the continuity plan of government (next 6 months), the International Property Maintenance Code (with the planning commission). He recognized NEC was working on the drainage plan as well as intersection safety around the elementary school.

B. January 20, 2022 Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

C. February Port Director & Capital Projects Update.

- Port Director Baker presented her report. She noted the deep draft port numbers were a moving target.

D. Sales and Bed Tax Charts and Figures.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Ken Hughes, discussing meeting processes, opined that when things are added to the agenda the day of the meeting, the public does not have a chance to read and process it. He argued that this precluded any public comments on those materials. He discussed the truck traffic and opined a rail might be warranted to handle the increased traffic. He discussed a comment saying Port development was producing erosion issues further towards cape Nome. He discussed placement of tailings.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Mark Johnson asked about plans for increased presence on Front St.
 - Manager Steckman discussed the plan to hire a CSO on emergency basis. One issue - training concerning improper search and seizures and use of tazers were a concern. He noted he asked Chief to develop a training program for CSOs and noted that not a lot of bottles were dumped in the past few years.
2. Council Member Martinson – no comments.
3. Council Member Topkok – no comments.
4. Youth Representative Hebel – no comments.
5. Council Member Brown discussed the chart Mr. Kosto handed out, noting the big difference was in the early hours of the morning, opining there was a cause and effect related to bar close.
6. Council Member Henderson requested a work session for incentives on affordable housing. He noted the tariff discussion got a little detailed and asked that Commissions work the fiscal details out prior to the council getting involved. He thanked everyone for discussing the alcohol issues and hoped that someday the Council would do something someday.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: February 15 - 25, 2022.
 - Mayor Handeland called for a special meeting on 3/7 at 5:30 PM.
 - He discussed the recent meeting with the Corps of Engineers and thanked Port Commission and Council Members for participating.
 - He announced the start of Iditarod activities in Wasilla, noting the Start banquet, ceremonial start and restart. He discussed limited seating at the banquet and advised people to get their vaccination cards as they would be required by Iditarod.
 - Mayor Handeland thanked NEC (Tiffany Martinson, Shane Smithhisler, and Mary David) for working with the City on drainage and safety with respect to intersections.
 - He brought up fire extinguishers and fire alarms and the need to keep them up to date and close.

- He finished by briefly speaking to Mr. Hughes' comments.

B. Appointment of Melissa Ford to Seat G of the Nome Planning Commission.

Mayor Handeland appointed Melissa Ford to Seat G of Nome Planning Commission.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Brown to confirm Mayor Handeland's appointment.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Topkok; Brown; Henderson

Nay:

Astain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The Council entered into executive session at 9:21 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 9:39 PM.


ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections the Council adjourned at 9:39 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 28th day of March, 2022


JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:


BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk