

**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, MARCH 28, 2022 at 5:30 / 7:15 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL

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

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**WORK SESSION - 5:30 PM**

- A. Discussion on Incentives to Stimulate Construction of New Residential Rental Housing in Nome.
- B. Discussion of Election Code and Potential Changes.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Members Absent: Paris Hebel (excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, Clerk; Mike Heintzelman, NPD Chief; Bob Pruckner, Deputy Chief; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (telephonic); Joy Baker, Port Director (telephonic); Chip Leep, Parks & Rec Director; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy Clerk (telephonic); Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager

In the audience: Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget; Rhonda Schneider; Ken Hughes; Matt Michels; Dani Smithhisler; Peter Lowi, Nome Nugget; Sean Milligan, KNOM; Drew McCann; Melissa Ford; Julius Rankin; Chuck Fagerstrom, Michelle Ahnangnatoguk

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**Discussion:**

- Mayor Handeland noted that an executive session would be needed to discuss union negotiations.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. February 28, 2022 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. March 7, 2022 Nome Common Council Special Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Topkok to approve the February 28, 2022 and March 7, 2022 minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Letter of March 2, 2022 from Michelle Ahnangnatoguk to City of Nome re: Suggestions and/or Request for Basketball Court & Letters of Support for the Project.

- Mayor Handeland thanked Michelle for putting the communication together.

B. Letter of March 18, 2022 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Hanson's Package Store License Renewal.

- Manager Steckman asked for time to develop a process for review, noting the matter would return to an April agenda.

C. Email Chain of March 19 - 22, 2022 Between Front Properties and Manager Steckman re: Homeless Issue in Nome.

D. City of Nome FY 2023 Budget Calendar.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

1. Kenny Hughes referred to the previous meeting's minutes and opined that thankfully NVAD wasn't needed. He discussed the continued need for a planner to support the Planning Commission and asked about hiring a grants specialist. He noted the Historic Preservation Committee was down an archeologist / historian and spoke about the HPC make up. He discussed the finishing of the Historic Preservation Plan, describing a conversation between him and Judith Bittner with SHPO, saying there are funds available for use to finish the project. Mr. Hughes floated the idea about expanding the tax base by not charging sales tax on power rates and increasing the rates to make up the difference, so as to capture users outside City Limits. He asked the City to set a target of 4% for the City sales tax, noting the reasons for the raise to 5% have been accomplished.
2. Chuck Fagerstrom discussed the beautiful weather and the Nome-Beltz Nanook Boys' recent win of the State Championship. He found the community support of the team at their arrival home touching. He asked the Council to find a meaningful way to honor student achievements.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. R-22-03-01 A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between the Nome Police Department and the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve for the Management of Cooperative Activities within the City of Nome and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-22-03-01.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: March 1 - 25, 2022.
  - Assistant Manager Morton presented his verbal report, updating the Council on the progress of meter replacements throughout town. He noted the project as almost complete and discussed some new features of the meters.
  - He discussed the fiber failure at the wind farm and the inability integrate with the SCADA system.
  - He discussed the vehicle caused outage from the week before. He discussed water / sewer jetting and integration of lift stations with the SCADA systems.

- Manager Morton and Council Member Morton discussed fuel prices, a potential increase in surcharge, and the timing of the change in surcharge after delivery.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **A. Activity Report: March 1 - 25, 2022.**

- Manager Steckman presented his written report, noting the mailing of assessments and upcoming Public Safety Advisory Commission training. He noted April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and discussed a potential special meeting or rescheduled meeting on April 4th. He discussed the need for training of new commission members.
- He discussed the upcoming rate increase for the sales tax.
- Council Member Henderson asked if budget projections for the sales tax change were included in such proposals.

#### **B. March Port / Capital Projects Report.**

- Port Director Baker discussed the Port of Nome presentation to the legislature in Juneau earlier in the months. She noted two grant applications scheduled to go to the Council for approval.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

1. Kenny Hughes echoed Chuck Fagerstrom's "Go Nanooks" and asked if there was more to be done to expand recreational activities for youth. He discussed the Nome Winter Sports Association and the hockey rink rebuild project.
2. Dani Smithhisler expressed appreciation for the YouTube broadcast, but noted that even with the volume all the way up people couldn't hear what was being discussed.
3. Diana Haecker noted that only one News organization reached out to the City of Nome on the Bun Hardy case and that news organization was the Nome Nugget. She praised Ed Stang's efforts to go out in a storm during Iditarod and escort the mushers to safety in a nearby village.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

1. Council Member Martinson congratulated the Nanooks on their win saying he was there and it was awesome to see. He said they had a heck of a team and coaches this year. He explained there were big plans for a celebration and that there was a meeting tomorrow at the college at 5:30. He expressed hope that youth softball would hopefully occur this summer.
  - Manager Steckman noted the Rec Center was being donated for the event.
2. Council Member Topkok congratulated the Nanooks as well and expression her appreciation for the community coming together so quickly for Sunday's parade. She

hoped for another work session before the fall's municipal election and asked it be scheduled sooner rather than later. She opined she supported Michelle Ahnangnatoguk's proposed basketball court project. She noted concern over the sound on the YouTube broadcast and asked for greater inclusivity in being able to make comments. She protested Seward's Day as an indigenous woman.

3. Council Member Brown thanked Council Member Topkok for her comments on Seward's Day, explaining he hadn't thought about that before. He congratulated the Nome-Beltz basketball team for their win. He liked to see the youth put their heart and soul into healthy activities. He expressed hope for positive change in the elections code and hoped for more inclusivity on City boards. He opined the incentive program for stimulating construction activities as worthwhile, though in need of some tweaks.
4. Council Member Doug Johnson congratulated the Nanooks on their win.
5. Council Member Mark Johnson appreciated the Nome-Beltz win, as well as Michelle Ahnangnatoguk's letter, thanking her for taking the time to put it together. He stated he was happy to see the city settle with Bun Hardy and expressed hope she knows the community stands with her. He suggested individual microphones to address the sound issues and reiterated a request to repeal the seasonal sales tax increase, saying the city will see increased revenues due to increased fuel prices. He discussed the difficulty businesses had in switching back and forth in collection. He discussed the unassigned fund balance of 66% as a reason to move the sales tax repeal ordinance forward.
6. Council Member Henderson discussed the parade and noted losing count on the cars in the parade. He called the win a huge accomplishment, bringing the community together. He said it was good to see the unified command is standing down the covid management. Council Member Henderson advocated for an assistant city manager position to assist the manager in handling the myriad of ongoing city issues. He asked for regular updates on NPD accreditation for the Council. He noted the sound continues to be an issue, going in and out, and hearing complaints from citizens. He congratulated Drew McCann on becoming the new town banker.
  - Manager Steckman spoke to the sound issues and his vision to expand similar conferencing setups to other facilities. He discussed the possibility of putting two new mics in address sound issues.

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

- A. Activity Report: March 1 - 25, 2022.
  - Mayor Handeland thanked Michelle for the letter and for soliciting support from other organizations. He discussed Manager Steckman's current focus on Steadman Park.
  - He discussed coming up with a plan to honor the NBHS Nanooks, noting the School Board regularly recognized students for their accomplishments at School Board meetings.

- He discussed Senator Murkowski's grant symposium the second week of April and rescheduled the April 11, 2022 regular meeting to April 4, 2022.
- He congratulated Brent Sass for his Iditarod win and expressed appreciation for Ed Stang, Chief West, and Dan Harrelson and their respective search and rescue teams for the work they do.
- Mayor Handeland discussed the power pole incident and said that the utility was collecting information for a potential claim. He asked those involved to call the Utility for more information.
- He thanked everyone for participating in the parade on Sunday. Nobody can say Nome didn't have pride in their team.
- He discussed his presentation with Port Director Baker to the House Finance Committee on the Port of Nome. He discussed the relative lack of difficulty in the hearing and looked forward to the opportunity to present to senate finance.
- He acknowledged the lawsuit with Bun Hardy was closed, said he was glad the case was resolved. He noted the work of recent years to set processes in place so that such a failure doesn't happen again. He ended by saying happy birthday to Nome on April 9th.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to enter into executive session to discuss union negotiations.

The Council entered into executive session at 8:18 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 8:54 PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adjourn.

Hearing no objections the Council adjourned at 8:54 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022

  
**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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**BRYANT HAMMOND**  
**Clerk**