

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 AGENDA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020 at 7:00 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

OATH OF OFFICE

- A. Oath of Office - Zoe Okleasik,

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- A. September 28, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes,

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- A. Letter of October 16, 2020 from AK DOT&PF to City of Nome re: PFAS Sampling in the Nome Airport Environs,

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NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-20-10-01 An Extension of a Local Emergency Authorizing the Nome Common Council to Direct the City Manager Take Necessary Action to Reduce the Impact and Spread of COVID-19 Throughout the City of Nome, **FIRST READING**

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- B. R-20-10-03 A Resolution Approving Acceptance of the 2020 State Homeland Security Program Grant in the Amount of \$46,176,

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- C. R-20-10-04 A Resolution Approving a Hiring Bonus of \$10,000 to Certified Police Officers Able to Commit at Least Two Years to the Nome Police Department,

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- D. R-20-10-05 A Resolution of the City of Nome Authorizing the City Manager to Develop and Implement Phase IV of CARES Act Funding for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19,

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UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: October 12 - 23, 2020,

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CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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- B. Emergency Order No. 2020-08,

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- C. KTOO Article of October 19, 2020 entitled *'Skyrocketing' cases among those in their 20s and 30s driving new COVID-19 spike,*

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- D. New York Times Article of October 21, 2020 entitled *Worried about COVID-19 in the Winter? Alaska Provides a Cautionary Tale,*

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CITIZEN'S COMMENTSCOUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTSMAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: October 12 - 23, 2020,

VERBAL

EXECUTIVE SESSIONADJOURNMENT

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ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Jennifer Reader; Meghan Topkok; Zoe Okleasik

Members Absent: Doug Johnson (excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor (telephonic); Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager; Jim West, Jr., Ambulance / Fire Chief

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Judy Martinson; Aaron Blankenship; Abe Vaden; Rhonda Schneider

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presiding Council Member Brown asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to approve the agenda as presented.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

OATH OF OFFICE

A. Oath of Office - Zoe Okleasik.

Clerk Hammond administered the Oath of Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 28, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. October 8, 2020 City Council Special Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to approve the September 28th and October 8th minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of October 16, 2020 from AK DOT&PF to City of Nome re: PFAS Sampling in the Nome Airport Environs.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- 1) Judy Martinson spoke about O-20-10-01, saying she heard it extended the lockdown until June of 2021. She requested that the Council do the right thing before its too late for small businesses in town.
- 2) Aaron Blankenship spoke in support of extending the emergency ordinance, citing in person teaching as a success for the current travel restrictions.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-20-10-01 An Extension of a Local Emergency Authorizing the Nome Common Council to Direct the City Manager Take Necessary Action to Reduce the Impact and Spread of COVID-19 Throughout the City of Nome, **FIRST READING**.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to advance O-20-10-01.

-Manager Steckman noted Section 3 1(e) should be deleted at second reading.

-The Council discussed section 4, the chain of command, and who should be designated with emergency powers should the City Manager be unable to fulfill his duties. The Council noted it should be marked for deletion.

-C. Reader noted July 29th should be changed to July 27th and asked why the reference to the State was removed.

-Manager Steckman explained logistics involved with the State and reminded the Council they can sunset the ordinance at any time.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-20-10-03 A Resolution Approving Acceptance of the 2020 State Homeland Security Program Grant in the Amount of \$46,176.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to adopt R-20-10-03.

-Manager Steckman summarized the grant award.

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

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-20-10-04 A Resolution Approving a Hiring Bonus of \$10,000 to Certified Police Officers Able to Commit at Least Two Years to the Nome Police Department.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to adopt R-20-10-04.

-Manager Steckman explained it cost about \$26,000 to send a police officer to the academy and gave examples on how the pro rata would be determined.

-The Council discussed the merits of the bonus and a means for increasing local hire.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. M. Johnson to amend R-20-10-04 by changing "two-year" to "three-year" in the fourth recital.

-Manager Steckman and Mayor Handeland voiced concern over the amendment.

-Chief Heintzleman noted that two years was typically a decisive point and appropriate.

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

The motion to amend **FAILED**.

Returning to the main motion

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

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-20-10-05 A Resolution of the City of Nome Authorizing the City Manager to Develop and Implement Phase IV of CARES Act Funding for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to adopt R-20-10-05.

-Manager Steckman explained the status of CARES Act funding.

-The Council discussed stimulus and relief options and possibilities for future disbursements.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Reader to amend R-20-10-05 by changing "\$2,500" to "up to \$7,500," adding "and purchased PPE" after "physically" in the fifth recital.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Topkok Brown

Nay: M. Johnson; Reader

Abstain:

The motion to amend **FAILED**.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Reader to amend R-20-10-05 by changing "\$2,500" to "up to \$7,500" and adding "/or submit receipts/quotes for any expense for COVID relief not covered by other sources" in the fifth recital.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Reader; Topkok; M. Johnson

Nay: Brown

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to amend R-20-10-05 by adding "Whereas, the City of Nome wishes to release funds to businesses with less than 50 employees."

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- I. Activity Report: October 12 - 23, 2020.

-Assistant Manager Morton presented his verbal report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: October 12 - 23, 2020.

-Manager Steckman presented his report, focusing on COVID challenges and operations.

- B. Emergency Order No. 2020-08.

- C. KTOO Article of October 19, 2020 entitled *'Skyrocketing' cases among those in their 20s and 30s driving new COVID-19 spike*.

- D. New York Times Article of October 21, 2020 entitled *Worried about COVID-19 in the Winter? Alaska Provides a Cautionary Tale*.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- 1) Judy Martinson expressed concern over the air quality in the testing tent at the airport and support for a cadet program for NPD and NPS. She discussed challenges related to COVID.
- 2) Rhonda Schneider opined that cloth masks and travel restrictions are not the reason Nome Public Schools is currently open, rather the lifestyle of residents contributed to the low incidence in Nome. She finished by suggested the community start a garden.
- 3) Emily Hofstaedter expressed concern over the health and safety of journalists and requested the City adopt Zoom meetings or the like.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

- 1) Council Member Brown thanked Kawerak for partnering with the City of Nome on the Homeland Safety grant. He appreciated the suggestion of a community garden and requested the City Manager allocate funds.
- 2) Council Member M. Johnson noted the new City website was an improvement and thanked staff for their efforts.
- 3) Council Member Martinson - no comments
- 4) Council Member Reader noted that other Alaskan city's recruitment bonuses were three years and noted bios and recruitment videos and suggested the City of Nome do similar. She thanked Kawerak for partnering with the City on the Homeland Security Grant.

Council Member Topkok congratulated Zoe Okleasik on being sworn in. She discussed COVID, travel restrictions, and mask requirements, noting wearing a mask was a simple act of empathy. She expressed concern over in person meetings and requested Zoom or something similar.

Youth Representative Okleasik expressed appreciation for an indigenous voice on the Council.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

N. Activity Report: October 12 - 23, 2020.

-Mayor Handeland opined the Council Meeting was akin to the recent presidential debates, noting the City is working to enable Zoom capabilities. He noted the "herding" of passengers into the post-TSA room at the airport as a concern, similar to Ms. Martinson's concerns over the testing tent. He congratulated Ms. Okleasik on becoming the second youth representative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Reader to adjourn.

Hearing no objections, the Common Council adjourned at 9:31 PM.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 9th day of November, 2020


JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:


BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk