

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, NOVEMBER 23, 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

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COMMUNICATIONS

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Nome Public Schools State of the Schools Presentation,

VERBAL

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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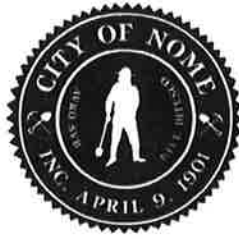
MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Activity Report: November 10 - 20, 2020,

VERBAL

ADJOURNMENT

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ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerald Brown (telephonic; audio issues at start); Doug Johnson (telephonic); Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson (telephonic); Jennifer Reader (telephonic); Meghan Topkok (telephonic);

Members Absent: Zoe Okleasik

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager (telephonic); Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager (telephonic); Jamie Burgess, Superintendent; Mike Heintzleman, NPD Chief; Bob Pruckner, NPD Deputy Chief

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Rhonda Schneider; Ken Hughes; Cathy DeAngelis; ~20 Zoom participants

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Handeland asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 9, 2020 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to approve the November 9, 2020 minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letter of November 16, 2020 from Nome Community Center to City of Nome re: Community Benefits Share Reallocation Request.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to approve a reallocation of Nome Community Center's NSEDC Community Benefits Share funds as requested.

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

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Rhonda Schneider thanked the Council for reallocating the NSEDC funds as requested.
2. Ken Hughes suggested amending the City's COVID travel policies to require a negative test within 72 hours prior to travel to more closely resemble the State of Alaska's.
3. Uly Hall read the email he sent to the Council earlier, asking the City of Nome to close down bars and restaurants to slow the spread of COVID-19.
4. Wade Harrison followed up with the Council on his request to put two City-owned lots up for sale.
5. Melissa Ford voiced her support for the Council's action re: quarantining and testing. She encouraged the City to close bars and restaurants and support those affected with CARES Act funding.
6. Anna Ashenfelter voiced appreciation for the City's previous efforts and asked that bars be closed and a city-wide mask mandate be enacted.
7. Barb Gray (email) voiced support for the Council and would support their decision. She asked that bars be closed and support those affected through CARES Act funding.
8. Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle (email) noted that "encouragement" does not work. She asked the City to act quickly in closing down. She cited Kansas as a case study in the effectiveness of mask mandates.
9. Matthew Johnson (email) requested the City of Nome close down the bars.
10. Hattie Keller (email) requested the City of Nome shut down the City to the extent possible.
11. Judy Martinson (email) demonstrated tour operators reluctance in planning travel to Nome through several forwarded emails.
12. Mayor Handeland presented the daily COVID-19 update bulletin published by NSHC.

13. Nicole Frank (email) supported a mask mandate and the closure of eat in / dine in services in Nome, citing challenges such as infection rates at AMCC and unmasked customers and employees at grocery stores.

NEW BUSINESS

A. State of the Schools Presentation.

- Superintendent Burgess presented her powerpoint report.
- Council Member Mark Johnson thanked Superintendent Burgess for the presentation, retaining teachers and congratulated her on Nome Public Schools being one of the only districts open last week.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: November 10 – 20, 2020.

- Assistant Utility Manager presented his verbal report highlighting respirator fit testing, passing the full compliance evaluation, and the non-eligibility of the streetlight project for CARES Act funding.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: November 10 – 20, 2020.

- Manager Steckman presented his written report and discussed potential actions the City could take to address the recent COVID-19 spike in cases.
- The Council voiced their support for support for closing bar and restaurants while assisting those affected.
- After discussion on the authority given by O-20-10-01, the Council agreed a special meeting was needed to close the bars.
- Mayor Handeland called a special meeting for Wednesday November 25, 2020 at noon in Council Chambers to present an emergency ordinance closing the bars for in person consumption until December 14, 2020.

B. October 15, 2020 Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Dani Smithhisler thanked the City for opening Zoom opportunities. She asked why the City was targeting bars and restaurants and not including marijuana stores and other businesses where people congregate, as well as why, if the City was not giving fines, would the City continue to use the travel form and put City employees at risk at the airport.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Brown said he was glad the City was addressing the exploding cases and noted there needed to be consequences for those knowingly spreading the virus.
2. Council Member Doug Johnson – no comments.

3. Council Member Mark Johnson agreed there should be consequences for those knowingly spreading the virus. He requested staff look into Wade Harrison's request. He described the terrific job the NSHC employee in the Anchorage airport was doing in getting people ready for the testing regime in Nome. He finished by bringing up a recent communication with the US Department of Justice concerning training for missing and murdered indigenous women cases and suggested it would be good for the City to pursue.
4. Council Member Martinson thanked Superintendent Burgess for keeping the schools open as long as she had and asked staff to follow up on Ken Hughes suggestion of mirroring State testing policy at the City. He finished by requesting the Christmas lighting contest be reinstated to brighten town in trying times.
5. Council Member Reader thought the lighting contest was a great idea and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.
6. Council Member Topkok noted the alternate youth representative Kellie Miller was on the Zoom call. She noted she supported the DOJ proposal. She asked the community to be safe, to watch their distance, to wash their hands and to wear a mask and noted she missed seeing her extended family.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: November 10 – 20, 2020.

- Mayor Handeland voiced his appreciation for the Governor's Office setting up a conference call with Commissioner Crumb, Public Health and the larger Cities in NW Alaska to coordinate COVID-19 responses. He finished on a sad note, announcing the passing of Ron Engstrom, lifetime resident of Nome, at his home in Basin Creek.

ADJOURNMENT

The Common Council adjourned at 9:24 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 14th day of December, 2020


JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:


BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk