

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, DECEMBER 14, 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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- B. Letter of November 13, 2020 from NSEDC to Mayor Handeland re: NSEDC 2020 Community Benefits Share,
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- C. Letter of November 20, 2020 from Alaska Business Development Center to City of Nome re: 2021 Volunteer Tax & Loan Program Proposal,
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- D. Letter of November 27, 2020 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Husky Liquor License Renewal Application,
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- E. Letter of December 4, 2020 from Calvin Schaeffer to Nome Common Council re: Tax Bill Confusion,
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- F. Email of December 10, 2020 from Karla Holmelvig to Clerk Hammond re: Requested Relief Due to Confusing tax Billing,
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- G. Memo of December 10, 2020 from Acting Finance Director Crowe to Nome Common Council re: update on NSEDC CBS Outstanding Audit Reporting,
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- H. Letter of December 11, 2020 from Nome Kennel Club to Manager Steckman re: Nome Kennel Club Races in 2021,

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CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-20-12-01 An Emergency Ordinance Prohibiting the Sale of Alcohol in Nome for On Site Consumption Until January 4, 2021 in Order to Reduce the Impact and Spread of COVID-19 Throughout the City of Nome, **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE/FIRST READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**

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- B. R-20-12-01 A Resolution Certifying that the Municipality Did Suffer Significant Effects During the Program Base Year from Fisheries Business Activities that Occurred within the FMA 11: Norton Sound Fisheries Management Area,

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- C. R-20-12-02 A Resolution of the City of Nome Authorizing the City Manager to Develop and Implement Phase VI of CARES Act Funding for Businesses and Individuals Impacted by COVID-19,

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- D. R-20-12-03 A Resolution Granting Nome Public Schools' Request of \$60,000 in CARES Act Funding to Cover Additional Costs of Providing Instruction Due to COVID-19 Pandemic,

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- E. R-20-12-04 A Resolution of the City of Nome Approving the Allocation of \$100,000 in Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation Community Benefit Share - COVID-19 Funds to the Nome Joint Utility System Streetlight Safety Enhancements Project,

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UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 24 - December 11, 2020,

VERBAL

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 24 - December 11, 2020,

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- B. Emergency Order 2020-11,

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- C. December Port of Nome & Projects Status Report,

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CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 24 - December 11, 2020,

VERBAL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor
John K. Handeland
Manager
Glenn Steckman
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Nome City Council
Jerald Brown
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**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020 at 7:05 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

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ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent:

Also Present: John Handeland, Mayor; Zoe Okleasik, Youth Representative (telephonic); Glenn Steckman, City Manager (telephonic); Christine Piscoya, Deputy Clerk; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk (telephonic); Mike Heintzelman, Police Chief; Emily Hofstaedter, KNOM

In the audience: ~25 Zoom participants

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Handeland asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 23, 2020 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. November 25, 2020 Nome Common Council Special Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. M. Johnson to approve the November 23, 2020 and November 25, 2020 minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of October 1, 2020 from NSEDC to Acting Finance Director Crowe re: NSEDC Community Benefits Share Fund Audit.
- B. Letter of November 13, 2020 from NSEDC to Mayor Handeland re: NSEDC 2020 Community Benefits Share.
- C. Letter of November 20, 2020 from Alaska Business Development Center to City of Nome re: 2021 Volunteer Tax & Loan Program Proposal.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to grant request of \$1,500 in financial assistance.

Discussion:

- Council Member Reader asked if they were planning on making the trip or planning a virtual trip.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. Letter of November 27, 2020 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Husky Liquor License Renewal Application.
- E. Letter of December 4, 2020 from Calvin Schaeffer to Nome Common Council re: Tax Bill Confusion.
- F. Email of December 10, 2020 from Karla Holmelvig to Clerk Hammond re: Requested Relief Due to Confusing tax Billing.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. M. Johnson to grant the relief requested.

Discussion:

- Clerk Hammond explained the issues on both accounts and recommended the requests for relief be granted.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- G. Memo of December 10, 2020 from Acting Finance Director Crowe to Nome Common Council re: update on NSEDC CBS Outstanding Audit Reporting.
 - Manager Steckman explained the needs of the program, the timeline of rink construction.
 - Council Member Mark Johnson asked the City to work with the Nome Winter Sports Association on the ice rink projection, citing a previous grant awarded to NWSA.
- H. Letter of December 11, 2020 from Nome Kennel Club to Manager Steckman re: Nome Kennel Club Races in 2021.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Peggy Darling (email) asked that servers and bartenders affected by the COVID closures be given consideration in the next round of CARES Act relief.
2. Roxanne Thurman (letter) asked that the community mask up, wash their hands to limit the spread of COVID-19; she requested youth be given \$500 and recommended a number of measures to assist bars and restaurants affected by the COVID-19 closures. She finished by making suggestions on social distancing and store hours.
3. Melanie Bahnke (email) asked the Council to close the bars to the public, arguing that if schools are closed, bars should be as well. She suggested using CARES Act funding to assist those businesses affected.
4. Melissa Ford noted issues in the CARES Act funding for Round 6 being tied to part-time, or full time employment.
5. Brad Soske noted issues with travelers coming straight off the plane and entering GCI thinking the test upon arrival was good enough.
6. Ken Hughes read a letter from Ramon Ghandia opposing closures of restaurants.
7. Ken Hughes argued that transmission in restaurants was negligible compared to transmission within the home. He argued that a reduction in hours of businesses only served to concentrate people. He asked for the hard statistics being used to make decisions and reiterated his request for the pre-travel to Nome tests count as the first test for Nome's requirements.
8. Donald Johnson discussed issues he had with the City of Nome's decisions on the use of COVID funds and asked if Iditarod 2021's decision to continue came before the Council.
9. Uly Hall thanked the Council, Mayor, and Manager, but suggested the Council meet weekly to make more nimble decisions. He asked that CARES Act funds go to those affected by City closures. Mr. Hall opined that, were elders to get vaccinated first, the City could open more quickly as the highest risks would be mitigated.
10. Chief Mike Heintzelman gave the Council an update on the backlog of sexual assault cases, the staffing and partnerships used to address the backlog and introduced Scott Weaver, NPD Investigator.

11. Scott Weaver discussed the process of closing out cold cases in the backlog and the challenges in doing such. He praised Sharon Sparks' assistance as victim's advocate.
12. Roy Ashenfelter spoke on the bar closure action prior to Thanksgiving, opining the action has largely worked, but we're not out of the woods yet. He suggested continuing on the same trend.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-20-12-01 An Emergency Ordinance Prohibiting the Sale of Alcohol in Nome for On Site Consumption Until January 4, 2021 in Order to Reduce the Impact and Spread of COVID-19 Throughout the City of Nome, **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE/FIRST READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 8:21 PM.

- Ken Hughes asked the Council to carefully consider the amount of damage the ordinance did. He opined that bars and restaurants were different in terms of transmitting the virus.
- Roy Ashenfelter opined the measures were working and to adopt the ordinance. If Nome can't educate children in person, people should be drinking in bars.

The Council reconvened at 8:25

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt O-20-12-01.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman explained the current case count and attributed it to individuals not following the rules. He opined that the City was in a tight spot, as heavy handedness faced significant criticism while the educational approach wasn't working to stop recent outbreaks.
- Council Member Mark Johnson asked why the City wasn't more aggressively pushing testing prior to travel to Nome.
- Manager Steckman opined that wasn't the silver bullet explaining he wasn't required to get a test getting back into Alaska because he was a resident.
- Council Member Topkok explained her recent travel experience and spoke in support of testing on day one and day 7 upon arrival into Nome.
- Council Member Doug Johnson opined that people are playing with loopholes and suggested removing the ability to drink coffee and soda in the bars.
- Council Member Reader discussed a recent travel experience with restaurants that seemed to work well.
- Manager Steckman explained the expectation that people would abide by the quarantine plan they committed to.
- Council Member Topkok expressed concern over Nome being a gateway to the region, some communities that don't have running water as well as frustration over not being able to go to restaurants. She suggested trusting the professionals with medical training.
- Council Member Martinson spoke in support of the ordinance.
- Council Member Brown discussed different activities categorized by risk, NSHC's publications and Nome residents experiences with COVID-19.

- Mayor Handeland discussed the specific logistics of the pre-travel COVID testing in Anchorage, noting instances where travelers could contract the virus after acquiring a negative test. He spoke in favor of passing the emergency ordinance.

At the roll call:

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

Nay: Reader

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-20-12-01 A Resolution Certifying that the Municipality Did Suffer Significant Effects During the Program Base Year from Fisheries Business Activities that Occurred within the FMA 11: Norton Sound Fisheries Management Area.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by M. Johnson to adopt R-20-12-01.

At the roll call:

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

Topkok

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-20-12-02 A Resolution of the City of Nome Authorizing the City Manager to Develop and Implement Phase VI of CARES Act Funding for Businesses and Individuals Impacted by COVID-19.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by M. Johnson to adopt R-20-12-02.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman requested some leeway to adjust the amounts to account for the extended COVID-19 closures.
- Council Member Reader asked if the City would take the part-time vs full-time issues Ms. Ford brought up earlier.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. M. Johnson to amend R-20-12-02 by categorizing part-time as less than 20 and full-time as 20 and above and basing it on five-weeks maximum benefit benefit to be applied for.

Discussion:

- Council Member M. Johnson requested the aid be put out post-haste.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion:

A motion was made by C. Brown and C. Reader to eliminate the qualification tiers and set the benefit as 60 percent of the average the November and December 2019 revenues of qualified business with a maximum benefit of \$10,000.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED.**

Returning to the main motion:

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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

- D. R-20-12-03 A Resolution Granting Nome Public Schools' Request of \$60,000 in CARES Act Funding to Cover Additional Costs of Providing Instruction Due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt R-20-12-03.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman gave a brief explanation.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- E. R-20-12-04 A Resolution of the City of Nome Approving the Allocation of \$100,000 in Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation Community Benefit Share - COVID-19 Funds to the Nome Joint Utility System Streetlight Safety Enhancements Project.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-20-12-04.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman gave a brief explanation.
- Council Member Reader expressed concern that the funds were not being used for strictly COVID related expenditures.
- Manager Steckman tried to explain the expenditure had been approved by NSEDC and fit the community's needs.
- Mayor Handeland argued the use of the funds were appropriate.
- Council Member Martinson asked if there was an expiration on the funds.
- Manager Steckman explained there was an expectation that the City spend out the funds by October 31. The City requested an extension.

At the roll call:

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

Nay: Martinson; Reader

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 24 - December 11, 2020.
- Utility Manager Handeland gave a brief verbal report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 24 - December 11, 2020.
- Manager Steckman gave an update on CARES Act relief checks, hoping the rest would go out before Christmas.
- B. Emergency Order 2020-11.
- The Council discussed the current emergency order, potential changes for emergency order 12, and the status of remaining CARES Act funding.
- C. December Port of Nome & Projects Status Report.
- Port Director Baker gave an update on the WRDA bill and Arctic Deep Draft Port Expansion, the Port launch ramp bid process, and the Port Rd improvements project.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None given

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Reader discussed her recent travel experience and expressed concern over people standing outside in freezing weather.
2. Council Member Mark Johnson thanked City Staff.
3. Council Member Martinson appreciated the light contest and thanked City Staff.
4. Council Member Topkok expressed appreciation for everyone following the 3 Ws – wash your hands, wear a mask, and watch your distance.
5. Student Representative Okleasik - no comments.

6. Council Member Doug Johnson - no comments.
7. Council Member Brown - no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: November 24 - December 11, 2020.
 - Mayor Handeland summarized a recent meeting with Manilaaq.
 - Mayor Handeland discussed working with United Methodist Women to replace the thrift shop.
 - Mayor Handeland requested the Clerk put an ad in the Newspaper seeking volunteers for the Public Safety Advisory Commission.
 - Mayor Handeland concluded by congratulating Emily Hofstaedter and Aaron Blankship on their recent engagement and wished them the best.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45PM

APPROVED and SIGNED this 11th day of January, 2021.


JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:


BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk