

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**Deputy Clerk**  
Jeremy Jacobson



**Nome Common Council**  
Scot Henderson  
Mark Johnson  
Adam Martinson  
Maggie Miller  
Cameron Piscoya  
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL**  
**WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024 at 5:30 PM / 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

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**WORK SESSION - 5:30PM**

A. Discussion of Personal Property Exemption on Commercial Aircraft.

**ROLL CALL - 7:07PM**

Members Present: Scot Henderson; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Cameron Piscoya; Luke Hansen, Student Representative

Members Absent: M. Sigvanna Tapqaq (excused); Maggie Miller (excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy City Clerk; Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director

In the Audience: Diana Haecker, The Nome Nugget (Zoom)  
(Work Session Only) Russell Rowe, Bering Air; Justin Polayes, Ryan Air; Rolland Trowbridge, TRS; Senator Olson, Alaska Legislator (Zoom); Lee Ryan, Ryan Air (Zoom); Susan, Everts Air (Zoom); Arnie Erickson, Accessor (teleconference)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson approve the agenda.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. M. Johnson, C. Martinson, C. Piscoya, C. Henderson

Aye:

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. July 24, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.
- B. August 14, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.
- C. August 28, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.
- D. February 12, 2024 Nome Common Council Work Session & Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson approve July 24, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes, August 14, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes, August 28, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes, and February 12, 2024 Nome Common Council Work Session & Regular Meeting Minutes.

Discussion:

- C. Johnson asked to revise \$15,000 to \$1,500 on February 12, 2024 Nome Common Council Work Session & Regular Meeting Minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Henderson; C. Johnson; C. Martinson; C. Piscoya

Aye:

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Letter of January 7, 2024 from Mark Synnott to Nome Common Council re: Tax Bill on SV Polar Sun.
- B. Letter of February 12, 2024 from Nome Local Emergency Planning Committee to Nome Area Legislature.
- C. Letter of February 22, 2024 from AMCO to City of Nome re: Beverage Dispensary License Renewal Application Notice.
- D. Email of February 16, 2024 from William Crockett to Glenn Steckman re Letter for Print to the Nome Community.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

- None Given

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. O-24-03-01 An Ordinance Adopting the Port of Nome Tariff No. 16.4 to Replace All Existing Tariffs of The Port of Nome, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-24-03-01.

Discussion:

- C. Henderson inquired if there are any major changes to this tariff and final percentage of cost.
- Port Director Joy Baker clarified 6.34 CPI adjustment. Regarding changes of current tariff, Commissioner set a specific rate rather than scale and some language changes for impounding and handling of equipment.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Martinson; C. Piscoya; C. Henderson; C. Johnson

Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. O-24-03-02 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2024 General Fund Municipal Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.
- C. O-24-03-03 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2024 School Debt Service Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.
- D. O-24-03-04 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2024 Special Revenue Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.
- E. O-24-03-05 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2024 Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.
- F. O-24-03-06 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2024 Construction Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.
- G. O-24-03-07 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2024 Port of Nome Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.
- H. O-24-03-08 An Ordinance Amending the City of Nome FY 2024 Port of Nome Capital Projects Fund Budget, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION**.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to advance O-24-03-02, O-24-03-03, O-24-03-04, O-24-03-05, O-24-03-06, O-24-03-07, and O-24-03-08.

Discussion:

- C. Henderson queried about the reason for increase in sales tax by \$150,000. Finance Director Nickie Crowe confirmed increased activity.
- Manager Steckman advised he is still determining an estimate for fuel consumption.
- C. Henderson inquired about equipment rental and use increasing from \$1,000 to \$40,00. Finance Director Crowe advised that several ongoing FEMA projects and depending on equipment and usage the funds would be to journal entry funds to general funds or ports.
- C. Henderson asked if there is an increase in Health insurance. Finance Director Crowe confirmed increase.
- C. Henderson also inquired about the increase for snow removal. Manager Steckman advised rates remain, however we just received invoices for past snow removals that couldn't be submitted in previous fiscal year.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Piscoya; C. Henderson; C. Johnson; C. Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- I. R-24-02-06 A Resolution Authorizing the City of Nome to Apply For and Participate In the USDOT Raise Discretionary Grant Program For the Funding of the Snake River Moorage Facility Project.
- J. R-24-02-07 A Resolution Authorizing the City of Nome to Apply For and Participate In the USDOT Raise Discretionary Grant Program For the Funding of the Port of Nome Local Service Facilities Design & Engineering - Phases II & III.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Henderson to approve R-24-02-06 and R-24-02-07.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Henderson; C. Johnson; C. Martinson; C. Piscoya

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- K. R-24-02-08 A Resolution Setting the Dates for the 2024 Board of Equalization.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Johnson to approve R-24-02-08.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Henderson; C. Johnson; C. Martinson; C. Piscoya

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- L. R-24-02-09 A Resolution Approving an Employment Agreement Between the City of Nome and Daniel Grimmer for Provision of City Clerk Services.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Johnson to approve R-24-02-09.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman mentioned that Mr. Grimmer has an extensive background and came highly recommended.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Johnson; C. Martinson; C. Piscoya; C. Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- M. R-24-02-10 A Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Supply and Installation of Automatic Garage Doors at the Nome Volunteer Fire Department Fire Hall.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Johnson to approve R-24-02-10.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman recommended approval of the higher BID explaining the difference is minimal and the NVFD preferred them because the doors would open faster.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Martinson; C. Piscoya; C. Henderson; C. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

N. R-24-02-11 A Resolution Rejecting All Bids For the Nome Public Schools - ADA and Security Upgrades Project.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Johnson to approve R-24-02-11.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman clarified this came in \$453,000 higher than what was allocated in the budget. This will need to go out to BID again.
- C. Piscoya inquired why BIDs are coming back so much higher. Manager Steckman explained there are many open projects citywide. C. Henderson added that many industries are experiencing a shortage in contractors and higher BIDs from companies that typically do not do business in Nome.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Piscoya; C. Henderson; C. Johnson; C. Martinson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. Activity Report: February 13 - February 23, 2024.

Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager

- Pole was struck on E 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue over the weekend.
- Water leak on E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- 300,000-gallon fuel purchase late last week
- Water Sewer Master Plan Meeting was held last week. Will be presenting to Planning Commission on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - o C. Piscoya inquired if the plan is online.
  - o Mr. Morton explained the meeting was just the first steps of gathering suggestions. No plan has been written yet.
  - o C. Henderson inquired if the plan is meant to be used for future funding opportunities. Mr. Morton explained the plans would be used for backlogged

- work and based off public input would potentially be used for system expansions for housing development.
- C. Johnson inquired about reimbursement from insurance companies in cases of poles are struck. Mr. Morton confirmed yes.

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

- A. Activity Report: February 13 - February 23, 2024.
  - ICE Services were in town for another project but did stop by Chambers to look at the system. Will return in the near future to provide recommendations on how to improve sound quality in Chambers.
  - Contract negotiations with NSHC are moving along. Anticipating completion within a few weeks.
  - Will be advertising for a third time for the Port Director and Assistant City Manager Position. Joy Baker has extended her contract for an additional 21 days.
  - Anticipating up to 19,000 passengers arriving on a cruise ship on June 21<sup>st</sup> with an 8-hour layover in Nome. Manager Steckman is meeting with different Commissions and staff to look into plans for city improvements.
  - C. Henderson inquired about status of Ambulance Department transitions and deadline. Manager Steckman advised that there are only a few minor issues that are being discussed with NSHC. Advised there are April 1<sup>st</sup> is still the deadline for transition with potential for April 15<sup>th</sup> extension if needed.
- B. February 2024 Port Director Report / Capital Projects Update.
- C. January 18, 2024, Nome Port Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

- Brad Soske wanted to thank the council for the approval of the new City Clerk.

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

- C. Martinson: no comments.
- C. Henderson shared that the work session was very informative and appreciated the turnout from aviation professionals. Asked if Council would be interested in a 3<sup>rd</sup> work session with industry professionals to hear their alternative suggestions and further details on times on the ground as a possible measure for taxation. Mentioned that it was noted several times by multiple people they didn't have enough time to prepare for this work session. It would be fair to the industry to allow for additional work session with them present.
  - C. Johnson mentioned industry professionals requested to submit written testimonies. Suggested we give them enough to prepare and submit the documents for review.
- C. Johnson asked clarification on the 21-day extension for Joy Baker and the process of hiring a Port Director. Manager Steckman explained Joy extended for 21 days with potential to return after a period of time, we can hire a Port Director, or we hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor.
  - C. Johnson inquired about bed and occupancy taxes in hotels and Airbnb. Manager Steckman clarified that we are currently collecting a bed tax with the exception of the week of Iditarod.
- C. Piscoya also expressed pleasure with the work session and shared excitement for the next one.

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

- A. Activity Report: February 13 - February 23, 2024.
  - Idirarod starts next Saturday March 2, 2024.
  - The Airline Taxes Discussion will be scheduled for March 25, 2024.
  - Special Meeting will be held on Monday March 4, 2024 on the Port Tariff.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Discussion of Contractual and Personnel Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which Could Have Adverse Effects on City of Nome Finances.

A motion was made by C. Johnson and seconded by C. Piscoya to enter into Executive Session to discuss Contractual and Personnel Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which Could Have Adverse Effects on City of Nome Finances.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Henderson; C. Johnson; C. Martinson; C. Piscoya

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

The Council entered executive session at 7:55pm.

The Council came out of executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned.

**APPROVED and SIGNED April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
**Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**DAN GRIMMER**  
**City Clerk**