

Mayor
John K. Handeland
Manager
Glenn Steckman
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



Nome Common Council
Scot Henderson
Doug Johnson
Mark Johnson
Adam Martinson
Cameron Piscoya
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 at 5:30 / 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

WORK SESSION - 5:30 PM

A. Presentation on FY 2024 Budgets.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Scot Henderson; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Cameron Piscoya; Sigvanna Tapqaq (Telephonic)

Members Absent: Doug Johnson (excused); Youth Rep. Kellie Miller (excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, Clerk; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (telephonic); Joy Baker, Port Director; Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager; Bob Pruckner, NPD Deputy Chief; Charlie Lean

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the agenda as presented.

Discussion:

- Mayor Handeland noted Mr. Vaden would not be available and requested New Business A be postponed until the next regular meeting.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 24, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya to approve the April 24, 2023 minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Memo of May 5, 2023 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Untimely Filed Tax Exemption Forms.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to authorize the Clerk to accept the forms as if timely filed.

At the roll call:

Aye: Martinson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson; M. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- Council Member Mark Johnson noted that \$150,000 off the assessed value of seniors' homes for taxation purposes was required by state law, but only Kodiak and Nome make their seniors come in and apply every year. He requested the process only require one filing and any changes to the application becomes the seniors responsibility to let assessor know if anything changes. He asked about adding more exemptions for seniors and asked for a work session on the topic.

- B. City of Nome Flier re: U-Call, We-Haul.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Charlie Lean spoke in appreciation of Tom Vaden, who recently announced his retirement from the volunteer ambulance department. He noted that Tom Vaden was a founding member of the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department and had served as an officer for the majority of his years on the department. He noted that Mr. Vaden's curriculum for health aide telemedicine was so well known it was used as the standard up until recently. Mr. Vaden started evening courses for EMT-1, allowing for more volunteers to serve on the department. He said that Nome could thank Mr. Vaden for the standard of service that patients received over the past few decades. It really goes a long way in saying thank you - he called Tom foundational in such morale boosting behavior. Tom is one of the longest serving volunteers in town with the most runs of any volunteer ambulance responder with about 5,000 calls, but time catches up with everyone.
2. Paul Kosto noted that a 2% seasonal sales tax was still being charged by several vendors and asked staff to do something about it.

SPECIAL ORDERS**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-23-05-01 An Ordinance Authorizing the Short-Term Lease of Block 63, Parcels 13A and 13B to Bonanza Fuel, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE.**

For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:15 PM.

The Council reconvened at 7:15 PM.

A motion was made by C. Piscoya and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt O-23-05-01.

At the roll call:

Aye: Piscoya; Tapqaq; M. Johnson; Martinson

Nay:

Abstain: Henderson

The motion **CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

- A. *postponed until the May 22, 2023 Regular Meeting.*

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: April 25 to May 5, 2023.
- Assistant Manager Morton discussed the generator overhaul, noting the project was going well. He briefly discussed the EWT turbines being serviced, noting they were doing fine. He discussed the Seppala Dr, Battery project, moonlight springs pressurization project, saying that all were moving along and under review. He noted the Utility agreed to purchase 1.2 million gallons of fuel for their 2023 purchase.
 - Council Member Mark Johnson asked about drainage and progress around town and Manager Steckman discussed briefly.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: April 25 to May 5, 2023.
- Manager Steckman discussed the sales tax issue that arose over the weekend, stating that people have to go to the vendor for refunds; he then discussed efforts to remind the businesses about the rate. He briefly discussed what he saw in terms of 3D printed houses in PA.
 - Council Member Henderson asked about the ARSSTC and communications with vendors. He asked about the commercial airlines and property tax and requested a work session to discuss the topic. Mark Johnson suggested the work session be expanded to include all exemptions.

- Council Member Mark Johnson inquired about marijuana and online sales, looking for a trend in sales tax.
- Council Member Piscoya asked about the incidental hazard assessment at the Port.
- Port Director Baker said it would be up on the Port website tomorrow. She discussed the Corp meeting saying it would be held on the 17th at the Mini Convention Center, encouraging as many people to come as possible. She briefly discussed staffing at the Port and the late start due to the remaining snow and ice.

B. May 2023 PD Report & Capital Projects Update.

C. Council Request - Sales Tax by Category.

D. Council Request - Online Sales Tax Revenue by Category.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

none given

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Tapqaq – congratulated Youth Representative Miller for graduating high school this month.
2. Council Member Henderson congratulated the Nome Nugget for winning best newspaper in the State. He expressed support for Council Member Mark Johnson’s suggestion on senior exemptions. He discussed the exemption on airplanes and reiterated his request for a work session on the topic, sometime when the assessor is present. He noted that no other commercial sector in town enjoys the exemptions that planes do from property taxes.
3. Council Member Mark Johnson noted an ordinance from Homer increasing the exemption for seniors beyond the state mandated \$150,000.
4. Council Member Martinson – no comments.
5. Council Member Piscoya noted he was looking forward to the tax exemption work session and wish hunters a happy spring hunting season.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: April 25 to May 5, 2023.

- Mayor Handeland discussed the meeting with officials from the Department of Justice and Manager Steckman and Council Member Mark Johnson regarding missing and murdered indigenous women. The officials said to rest assured and that work was going on in the background.
- He discussed the Northwest Campus and High School graduations coming up and noted the upcoming public meeting with Corps of Engineers at the Mini, saying that people can show up in person but that there is a virtual option as well.

- He discussed a taekwondo demonstration at 7pm at rec center and a sports event at high school going on at the same time oping there were more interesting things than TV going on in town.
- He noted that on May 31 the Board of Equalization will reconvene - 169 appeals should be getting whittled down and assessors should be calling the appellants.
- He finished by clarifying aircraft as aircraft – all personal, recreational, and commercial were under the exemption and suggested 5:30 PM on June 12th as a work session time to discuss the aircraft exemption and others.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters the immediate knowledge of which may have adverse effects on City of Nome finances.

The Council entered executive session at 7:55 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 8:24 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 8:24 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 24th day of May 2023

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk