

Mayor
John K. Handeland

Manager
Glenn Steckman

Deputy Clerk
Brad Soske



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

NOME COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 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

Members Present: Scot Henderson; Mark Johnson; Cameron Piscoya; M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

Members Absent: Dough Johnson (excused); Adam Martinson (excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy City Clerk; Thomas Simonsson, NJUS Field Operations Superintendent; Mike Heintzleman, NPD Chief; William Crockett, NPD Deputy Chief

In the Audience: Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget Newspaper; Sophia Pantelis; Luke Hansen; Teriscovkya Smith; Anna Lionas; Brad Soske; Isaiah Marble; Bert Kuzuguk; Michael Marvin; Kelly Bogart & Krystal Hensley (telephonic), Sophia Pantelis; Luke Hansen; Isaiah Marble; Bert Kuzuguk; Michael Marvin

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

At the roll call:

Aye: Johnson; Piscoya; Tapqaq; Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 22, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes

B. June 26, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya to approve the May 22, 2023 and June 26, 2023 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

(2:42)

- A. Flyer re: Alzheimer's Association Education Program at Munaqsri Senior Apartments on September 27, 2023
- B. Newsletter of August, 2023 from Nome Community Center to City of Nome re: HomePlate Nome Apartments Update
- C. Letter of September 14, 2023 from NSEDC to Cheryl Thompson, City of Nome re: Community Fall Clean-Up Donation
- D. Letter of September 25, 2023 from Sophia J. Pantelis to City Council re: Proposal for Establishing an Indoor Sports Complex in Nome, Alaska

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Teriscovkya Smith, Principal of Nome-Beltz Middle-High School - informed the Nome Common Council there is widespread abuse of "vaping" (battery-operated, handheld devices that produce aerosols, often nicotine a part), at Nome-Beltz Middle-High School. The school's action, installation of \$30k in vape sensors, borrowing equipment from Nome Police Department for use to physically screen for these devices, and the issue persists. She detailed her efforts reaching out to various organizations, experiences where student usage, vaping, led to overdosing. The vaping has had a disruption in school safety, according to students who have confided in her; student-athletic activities and the school's culture. She drew attention to students of the school complaining of vaping, the safety of it's usage, usage in restrooms where these previously safe spaces has been disrupted by vaping. The school's previous action, educating and discipline has not resolved the issue, she concluded by requesting the City's assistance, on behalf of the school.
 - a. Council Member M. Johnson remarked, it was upsetting news to hear, suggesting action be taken by the City.
 - b. Manager Steckman agreed vaping has become an issue, suggesting the Nome Common Council, as the local-governing board, create a time to discuss the matter in detail.
 - c. Mayor Handeland opined this would be a topic for later discussion, possibly a council work-session.
2. Sisters, Kelly Bogart & Krystal Hensley, addressed the council with deep concern with the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department human resources. She thanked the EMT driver for his arrival, assistance, and efforts but plead for change from the City for a more reliable, efficient ambulance response.
 - a. Council Member M. Johnson requested a work-session to look further into the matter.
 - b. Manager Steckman gave detail into what was an ongoing investigation, opining a breakdown in communication and unacceptable that the ambulance assistance was not more swiftly. He stated the importance in having this discussion, offering that the community deserves a swift emergency response, whether it be provided by the City, the hospital, or 3rd party.
3. Sophia Pantelis provided a vision for Nome Indoor Sports Complex, offering her assistance seeking and applying for grants on City's behalf, providing a few grant opportunities she found.
4. Students from Nome-Beltz High School (Luke Hansen, Isaiah Marble, Bert Kuzuguk, Michael Marvin) presented their concerns to the Nome Common Council with the state of vaping at the Nome-Beltz Middle-High School.
 - a. Council Member Tapqaq made request that the Nome Beltz High School student body work with the council when address the vaping in schools during future work sessions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. O-23-08-01 An Ordinance Authorizing Sale to AK DOT&PF of Parcels Adjacent to Seppala Drive for Road Projects, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**

*For the purpose of holding a public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:30 PM.
The Council reconvened at 7:31 PM.*

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt 0-23-08-01.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. R-23-09-04 A Resolution Appointing Election Judges and Clerks for the 2023 Municipal Election and Setting Their Compensation

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Tapqaq to adopt R-23-09-04.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

(32:04)

- A. Activity Report: September 9 - September 21, 2023
- Mayor Handeland stated no new updates to report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: September 9 - September 21, 2023
- Manager Steckman noted the next council meeting falls on Indigenous People's Day, a scheduled day of closure for all City facilities.
- Grant opportunities from the state.
- He reminded the Council there would be a meeting October 5 to approve election results.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

No comments given.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

(44:08)

- Council Member M. Johnson noted with the hire of a City Planner, suggested joint meetings with the Nome Planning Commission and the City Council to address issues in the near future.
- Council Member Piscoya inquired about outdoor basketball courts and the landing packs and scheduling that work session with the assessor. Also eager to the work session regarding vaping and ambulance.

- City Manager Steckman noted assessor was not able to travel, rescheduling in progress. Asphalt was scarce this year, once received plans could be had. Steadman Park was to receive leveling, asphalt, and court.
- Council Member Tapqaq opined her eagerness to engage in both soon to be scheduled work-sessions. Her condolences go out to the family who had recently lost their mother.
- Council Member Henderson noted both the vaping and EMT concerns have been previously brought up. Council will look into both issues very closely and will address both concerns and expressed condolences to individuals impacted by both.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

A. Activity Report: September 9 - September 21, 2023,

- Mayor Handeland noted the Boards and Commissions would be cleaned up.
 - City Manager Steckman requested to revise the Planning Committee from 7 to 5 to meet quorum.
- October 10 at 5:30PM for vaping work-session followed up by regular meeting. The research into the EMS investigation would need to be handled prior to a worksession, with work-session scheduled possibly for November.

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. Tapqaq to enter into executive session to personnel and legal matters the immediate knowledge of which could have adverse impacts on City of Nome finances.

The Council entered into executive session at 7:49 PM.
The Council came out of executive session at 9:15 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 12th day of February 2024

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRAD SOSKE
Deputy Clerk