

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland  
**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman  
**Clerk**  
Bryant Hammond



**Nome City Council**  
Jerald Brown  
Doug Johnson  
Mark Johnson  
Adam Martinson  
Jennifer Reader  
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 at 12:09 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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**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Scot Henderson; Doug Johnson; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Sigvanna Tapqaq

Members Absent:

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Ken Morton, NJUS; Cliff McHenry, Building Inspector

In the audience: Diana Haecker, Megan Gannon (Nome Nugget); Paul G. Kosto; Roy Ashenfelter; Pat Piscoya; Anna Ashenfelter; Laura Gilligan; Shoni Evans; Rhonda Schneider; Maggie Miller

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Brown to approve the agenda.

At the roll call:

Aye: Henderson; D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapqaq; Brown

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

1. Paul Kosto with the Chamber of Commerce and Vice-Chair of LEPC informed the Council that both organizations were in full support of the disaster declaration.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. R-22-09-03 A Resolution to the State of Alaska and the Alaska Congressional Delegation Declaring a Disaster in the City of Nome as a Result of a Significant Weather Event Commencing on September 16, 2022.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. D. Johnson to adopt R-22-09-03.

Discussion:

- Mayor Handeland asked and Clerk Hammond did read the resolution in its entirety.
- Manager Steckman explained the City's cleanup strategy, noting the monofill would open for free; Saturday a cleanup was being planned, with Bering Tea providing refreshments for volunteers with collection points for trash and flood debris; the emergency shelter would be open at least one more night; He discussed damage to the Mini Convention Center, describing the back wall being pushed in and boiler going out. He thanked the community for banding together. Manager Steckman gave an update on Alaska's congressional delegation working on a declare federal declaration. He thanked Clerk Hammond for being Acting City Manager during the weather event and ended saying the City is doing everything it can to cover costs if Nome is declared a disaster.
- Mayor Handeland noted it was an amazing several days for the City of Nome and that the City came through with flying colors, banding together even more than normal through events like this. He gave a big thanks to Clerk Hammond and Charlie Lean for staffing the Emergency Operations Center through the storm, as well as Paul Kosto, and all state departments that worked to minimize impacts to community. He gave kudos to NVFD and NVAD for responding to the unplanned event in the middle of an unplanned disaster. He noted it was good the fire hadn't occurred earlier and noted Linda Conley's comment about september 17th fire in 1934. He expressing his gratitude for the volunteers that came out of the wood work even more than people normally do. Mayor Handeland thanked Shoni Evans for opening up the NEST shelter to provide relief for folks that were unhoused during the storm. He couldn't talk enough about the way the community came together. He declared that we will survive and this will make us better in the end.
- Council Member Brown asked if language could be included in the recitals to indicate the entire region was hit hard.
- Mayor Handeland explained he only had authority for City, but with concurrence he could put some regional language in.

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Tapqaq; Brown;  
Henderson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- Roy Ashenfelter talked about how invaluable the seawall investment was.
- Council Member Tapqaq asked how volunteers could help.
- Manager Steckman explained that the seawall will be evaluated and repaired if needed. He noted would-be volunteers should contact City Hall. He discussed the monofill again and asked that people consult with Building Inspector McHenry for assistance on repairs & code. He gave out his cell phone and noted the City will be working with Red Cross. He finished by saying all the work is not going to be accomplished in a day and for people to call City Hall with questions.
- Mayor Handeland discussed Rosa Wright and the Covenant Church who helped organize work parties yesterday. He suggested possibly the snake river bank. If people can't find an area, he'd be happy to direct them to one.
- Manager Steckman mentioned the yellow trash bags and the many calls he's been receiving.

- Mayor Handeland explained the ongoing conversations with FEMA, an incoming trip from Dunleavy, and gratitude people are helping. He gave a briefing on regional villages and that the City was directing help to villages that are in worse shape.
- Manager Steckman noted City Hall will close by 3pm today. Smoke and cold makes it uncomfortable for staff.
- Paul Kosto stated there would be a full fledged firemans carnival this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 12:31 PM.

**APPROVED and SIGNED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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**BRYANT HAMMOND**  
Clerk