

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
WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 09, 2021 at 5:30 / 7:06 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

- A. Discussion of Façade and Outside Structure Improvements Program.
- B. Discussion on a Potential Ban on Plastic Bags in Nome.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Mark Johnson; Doug Johnson; Adam Martinson; Jennifer Reader; Sigvanna Topkok

Members Absent:

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, Clerk; Joy Baker, Port Director (telephonic); Mike Heintzelman, NPD Chief

In the audience: Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget; Sean Milligan, KNOM; Austin Ahmasuk; Tracy Buie; Salina Balderas Hargis; Nelda Balderas; Josie Bahnke; Stephanie Nielson; Jessica Farley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Topkok to approve the agenda as presented.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. July 12, 2021 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. M. Johnson to approve the July 12, 2021 minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Memo of July 22, 2021 from Clerk Hammond to Nome Common Council re: Untimely Filed Exemption Applications.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by D. Johnson to authorize the Clerk to accept the applications as timely filed.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. Letter of July 23, 2021 from NSHC to City of Nome re: Tax-Exempt Appeal Account 001.115.01.
- Clerk Hammond gave the background on the request. The Council discussed the merits of the request.
- C. Letter of June 24, 2021 from Amber Otton & Cynthia Gray to City of Nome re: Funding Request for Long-Term Budget/Teacher Position.
- Council Member Topkok noted her support but questioned if Council action was the proper procedure.
 - Council Member Brown suggested this issue be brought to the school board and discussed previous times of the Common Council insisting on certain programs provided the City paid for it.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Jessica Farley shared a funding opportunity from the American Rescue Plan explaining it appeared to fit the City of Nome's needs well.
2. Austin Ahmasuk noted that public comment isn't taken prior to resolutions and opined that it should be. He noted lots of criticisms of the Historic Preservation Plan and suggested that it be sent back to the Historic Preservation Commission because the historical context concerning the Alaska Native community was not correct. He complained the plan mentioned that Natives were

here first and stopped there. He noted that the gold rush context didn't go into the rich history of the last hundred years. He opined the plan was a slap in the face to Alaska Natives living in Nome.

3. Selina Hargis, sister of missing person Joseph Balderas, noted the family has been to Nome four times over the past five years and that they're still looking for him and want to know what happened to him. She noted that the family was going to speak with the Troopers and the Nome Police Department and that they were taking any tips they can.
4. Mike Heintzleman discussed the search for Florence Okpealuk, including recent FBI assistance. Mayor Handeland encouraged members of the community with any information to come forward.
5. Josie Bahnke commended the Clerk's Office and Public Works for outstanding service in burying her father's ashes at the Cemetery this weekend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-21-08-01 An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Municipal Property by Use Permit to the Nome Rotary Club for East-End Park.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to advance O-21-08-01.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. O-21-08-02 An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property by the City of Nome (City) from Rodney M. Boucher, Wilfred A. Boucher, & Mary Jeanne Herman for the Fixed Price of Two Hundred and Three Thousand Dollars (\$203,000).

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. D. Johnson to advance O-21-08-02.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-21-07-03 A Resolution Approving the Historic Preservation Plan.

A motion was made by C. Brown and seconded by C. Rader to delay consideration of R-21-07-03 until such time as the Historic Preservation Commission addresses the concerns brought forth in Citizens' Comments.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- D. R-21-07-04 A Resolution of the City of Nome Authorizing the City Manager to Develop and Implement Phase VII of the CARES Act Funding for Hospitality Businesses Impacted by COVID-19.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-21-07-04.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman explained the program briefly, noting it targeted businesses impacted by the altered finish of Iditarod 2021.
- Council Member Brown suggested adding another category, such as flight seeing, tour guides, gift shops etc that are not hospitality but tourism related and would have been impacted.
- The Council agreed.
- Manager Steckman noted a tourism category would be added.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- E. R-21-07-05 A Resolution of the City of Nome Authorizing the City Manager to Develop and Implement Phase VII of CARES Act Funding for Artisans, Carvers, and Sculptors Impacted by COVID-19.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Topkok to adopt R-21-07-05.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- F. R-21-07-06 A Resolution of the City of Nome Authorizing the City Manager to Offer a Bounty of Junk Vehicles Disposed of Through U Call, We Haul.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-21-07-06.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman noted the ongoing discussions at the Council and Staff levels on clean up and beautification efforts. He hoped this program would provide incentives for people to find their titles and get the junk vehicles off their lots.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. Brown to amend R-21-07-06 by replacing “the Community of Nome” with “the City of Nome takes pride in its community and also”

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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

- G. R-21-07-07 A Resolution Approving a Contract with Legislative Consultants in Alaska (LCIA) for State Lobbying Services for the Fiscal Year 2022.

A motion was made by C. Topkok and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-21-07-07.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- H. R-21-08-01 A Resolution Designating Charles "Chip" Leeper as Acting City Manager for September 2, 2021 to September 12, 2021.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. Brown to adopt R-21-08-01.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- I. R-21-08-02 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Knik Construction to Replace the Concrete in Front of the Nome Volunteer Fire Department (NVFD) Fire Hall.

A motion was made by C. D. Johnson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt R-21-08-02.

Discussion:

- Fire Chief West distributed plans to the Council and described the proposed project. He noted a sag in a section of the old concrete was channeling water underneath the building and that the proposed project would address the issue. Fire Chief West noted the project was estimated at \$35,000 and that he asked Knik if they would be willing to make a donation or cut the Fire Department a deal.
- Council Member Reader declared a potential conflict of interest.
- Mayor Handeland opined the conflict was insignificant and asked her to vote.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: July 13 - August 6, 2021.
- Mayor Handeland explained Assistant Manager Morton was not able to make the meeting and noted the water portion of the Bering St project was going well.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Activity Report: July 13 - August 5, 2021.
- Manager Steckman presented his report, highlighting a Delta variant update and beginning planning on snow removal.

- Council Member Mark Johnson asked about GCI sound issues, noting the volume was really low. He noted that those that watch on GCI probably don't have internet.
- Manager Steckman noted he would follow up with GCI.

B. Nome Parks and Recreation Quarterly Report April 1 - June 30, 2021.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Stephanie Nielson discussed an NVAD grant for a side by side that was not awarded. She encouraged the Council to get a knowledgeable grant writer to bring more grant dollars into the community.
2. Jessica Farley noted that she annoys Manager Steckman with funding opportunities at least monthly and suggested the City get a grant writer and a strategic planner to take advantage of the funding opportunities out there.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Mark Johnson asked if the City just recently purchased a side-by-side and said he thought shared across departments.
 - Chief West explained that the new side-by-side was not adequate to carry a patient, not long enough. The one purchased was good for recon or patrolling the beach.
 - Manager Steckman described the reasons for the side-by-side purchase and the constraints the City was operating under at the time. He noted the priority was the curtailment of criminal activity on West Beach following the disappearance of Ms. Okpealuk.
2. Council Member Martinson – no comments.
3. Council Member Reader – no comments.
4. Council Member Topkok discussed the Conference on Young Alaskans, noting Nome represented well with 5 out of 38 delegates in Fairbanks. She name Nome participants Caitlyn Smith, Zoe Okleasik, Molly Kenick, Sarah Bioff, and Alycin Bahnke, noting they would be in soon to present the resolutions developed at the conference.
5. Council Member Brown discussed his visit to WEIO, noting he was very impressed with the athletes, especially the four man carry participant from Kotzebue. He noted Nome being represented very well and gave kudoes to all the great athletes and Miss WEIO.
6. Council Member Doug Johnson noted that it's probably a good idea to start reminding people its time to wear masks indoors and wash their hands again.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: July 13 - August 6, 2021.
- Mayor Handeland noted the passing of Nome Citizen Judy Martinson for the record, saying she did a lot for the community promoting Nome through tourism and that she will be missed.

- B. Mayoral Proclamation of July 14, 2021 as KNOM Appreciation Day.
- Mayor Handeland discussed the event at KNOM on KNOM Day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Discussion of Legal Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which May have Adverse Affects on City of Nome Finances.

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

The Council entered into executive session at 8:15 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 9:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Brown to adjourn.

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 9:00 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 23rd day of August, 2021

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk