

**Mayor**  
John K. Handeland

**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman

**City Clerk**  
Dan Grimmer



**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, JANUARY 08, 2024 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

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**WORK SESSION - 5:30 pm**

A. Ambulance Discussion

**ROLL CALL - 7:13pm**

Members Present: Scot Henderson; Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Cameron Piscoya; M. Sigvanna Tapqaq (virtual); Maggie Miller; Youth Representative, Luke Hansen

Members Absent:

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy City Clerk; Chip Leeper, Recreation Center Director; Will Crockett, Acting NPD Chief; Cole Cushman, DPW Director; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director; Angie Nguyen, Executive Assistant; Cliff McHenry, Building Inspector

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. December 4, 2023 Nome Common Council Special Meeting Minutes.

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. FAQ - Cell Towers, 5g and RF Waves.
- B. Letter from Michael Powers of Atlas Towers to City of Nome re: RF Safety Issues and Human Health.
- C. Letter of October 2, 2023 from State of Alaska: Division of Community and Regional Affairs to City of Nome re: FY 2024 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program.
- D. Letter of December 15, 2023 from NSHC CEO Angie Gorn to Glenn Steckman, City Manager of Nome re: Termination of MOA for Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department Services.
- E. Article of January 4, 2024 KTUU News re: Assembly, police chief discusses concerns with potential marijuana code changes.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

- Sophia Pantellis, described the disruption of the pool maintenance schedule.
  - o Kinley N. shared concerns about lack of extracurricular programs for youths.
  - o Manager Steckman noted the gravity of pool repair decisions as necessary but not easy.
  - o Chip Leeper stated the original timeline was extended for a variety of reasons, but the project was quoted as being completed far earlier than what was realistic. Contractors playing a role in the delays. Specialized parts requiring custom manufacturing have also been significant.
- Ken Hughes shared appreciation for the snow removal and everything that the Council has funded. The resolution for taxi cabs and the hospital are poorly written. It is important that we get language right and that we be transparent and open and convey that image in our documentation.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. O-23-11-03 An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Municipal Property by Lease to Atlas Tower 1, LLC, **SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL PASSAGE**.

For the purpose of holding a Public hearing, the Council recessed at 7:44pm.

- Rodney Jones, questioned the lease parameters.
- City Manager Steckman noted the Verizon service, tower for repeater enabling emergency services, additional property tax from the improvement from the tower.
- Rodney Jones gave his blessings.
- Elliot Weintraub supported the tower construction, shared excitement in Verizon communications.

The Council reconvened at 7:50pm.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Johnson to adopt O-23-11-03.

Discussion:

- C. Henderson asked confirmation on location of the cell tower and acknowledged new documentation stating that the tower location will not affect the nearby school.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. O-24-01-01 An Ordinance Amending the Chapter 3.25 of the Nome Code of Ordinances with the Addition of a New Section 3.25.040 Prohibiting Drive-Through and Curbside Sale of Age-Restricted Products.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Piscoya to postpone O-24-01-01 to next Council Meeting on January 22, 2014.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- B. R-24-01-01 A Resolution Certifying that the Municipality did Suffer Significant Effects During the Program Base Year from Fisheries Business Activities that Occurred within the FMA 11: Norton Sound Fisheries Management Area.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Johnson to adopt R-24-01-01.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- C. R-24-01-02 A Resolution of the Nome Common Council Providing for the Determination by Lot of Five Lapsed / Revoked Taxicab Licenses.

No motion was made.

- D. R-24-01-03 A Resolution approving the labor agreement between Nome Joint Utility System and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547 through December 31, 2024.
- E. R-24-01-04 A Resolution approving the labor agreement between Nome Joint Utility System and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 through December 31, 2024.
- F. R-24-01-05 A Resolution approving the labor agreement between Nome Joint Utility System and the Alaska Public Employees Association/American Federation of Teachers Local 6138 through December 31, 2024.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Piscoya to adopt R-24-01-03, R-24-01-04, and R-24-01-05.

Discussion:

- Mayor Handeland explained that this is a one year extension of the current agreement, confirming a 4.5% increase.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- G. R-24-01-06 A Resolution of the Nome Common Council Providing for the Retention of the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department.

*No motion was made.*

- H. R-24-01-07 A Resolution of the Nome Common Council Relinquishing the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Johnson to adopt R-24-01-07.

Discussion:

- C. Piscoya declared a conflict of Interest due to his ability to influence policy.
- C. Henderson expressed his appreciation for the volunteers of the Ambulance Department but ultimately feels the City cannot afford the funds that would be required to operate the department responsibly in the future.
- C. Johnson also expressed gratitude to the Ambulance Employees present. He shared that the community and the council recognized their hard work and dedication.

At the roll call:

Aye: C. Tapqaq; C. Miller; C. Henderson; C. Johnson; C. Martinson

Nay:

Abstain: C. Piscoya

The motion **CARRIED**.

- I. R-24-01-08 A Resolution of the Nome Common Council Directing the City Manager to Work with the State of Alaska and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation on the \$5,000,000 Awarded to the City of Nome for "Attainable Housing" for Professional Employee Housing and Affordable Housing.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. Piscoya to adopt R-24-01-08.

Discussion:

- C. Henderson inquired into financial obligations of the City, if passing the resolution.
  - o Manager Steckman explained that Bethel, Kotzebue, and Nome were awarded \$5,000,000.00 each. \$3,000,000.00 goes to attainable/professional housing. \$2,000,000.00 goes to affordable housing. There is a 15% match requirement that has already been met through a grant.
- C. Johnson inquired on the location and deadline for usage of funds.
- C. Miller identified efforts to create professional housing but questioned efforts toward housing for existing residents.
  - o Manager Steckman stated that the City is currently working with Nome Eskimo Community, BSHA, and other organizations to bring in funds and create more housing.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### **UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: December 12, 2023 to January 5, 2024.

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

- A. Activity Report: December 12, 2023 to January 5, 2024.
- Manager Steckman noted there is a Port Development Signing tentatively on Thursday January 11, 2024 at noon.
  - He noted there were several interested parties in taxicabs. There are five licenses available. The current state being there are individuals unlicensed operating.
    - o C. Henderson made the request to have a work session once more information is available in order to make an educated decision.
  - C. Johnson inquired whether the figures had been provided for the Radio Systems BID. Manager confirmed that numbers had been provided.
  - C. Johnson inquired about the Chief of Police hiring process. Manager informed there will be a Safety Advisory Meeting on Saturday at 10am to discuss details and options.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

- None given.

**COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

- Council Member Mark Johnson: No comments.
- Council Member Adam Martinson gave appreciation for everyone who assisted with the New Year's Eve firework show.
- Council Member Cameron Piscoya: No comments.
- Council Member Sigvanna Tapqaq: No comments.
- Council Member Maggie Miller: No comments.
- Council Member Henderson gave appreciation to the public commentary. He identified the Planning Commission meeting's work session for tomorrow night, regarding Front Street rezoning.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

- A. Activity Report: December 12, 2023 to January 5, 2024.
  - Mayor Handeland thanked everyone for the discussion and decision on the Ambulance department. He requested the Council see the agreement prior to anything being finalized.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Johnson to enter into executive session to discuss Personnel, Legal, and Financial Matters the Immediate Knowledge of Which May Have Adverse Impacts on City of Nome Finances.

The Council entered executive session at 8:37pm.

The Council came out of executive session 8:55pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 8:55pm.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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**DAN GRIMMER**  
City Clerk