

Mayor
John K. Handeland
Manager
Glenn Steckman
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



Nome City Council
Jerald Brown
Doug Johnson
Mark Johnson
Adam Martinson
Scot Henderson
M. Sigvanna Tapqaq

**NOME COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022 at 12:05 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: Jerald Brown; Scot Henderson; Mark Johnson; Doug Johnson; Adam Martinson; Sigvanna Tapqaq (telephonic)

Members Absent: Paris Hebel (excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Lisa Murkowski, US Senator; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, Clerk; Nickie Crowe, Finance Director (telephonic); Joy Baker, Port Director (telephonic); Ken Morton, NJUS Assistant Manager; Jay Sterne, Windward Strategies

In the audience: Diana Haecker, Nome Nugget; Sean Milligan, KNOM; Peter Loewi, Nome Nugget; Shane Smithhisler; Paul G. Kosto; Derek McLarty; Gay Sheffield; Rhonda Schneider; Len Lovins; Blake Bogart; Cameraon Piscoya; Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

1. Paul Kosto spoke about housing priorities, requesting the Council think of options for private business to construct rather than focusing solely on the City-led projects.

2. Rhonda thanked Senator Murkowski for her contributions to funding the permanent supportive housing project, which served as the springboard that got the project rolling.
3. Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle spoke on behalf of King Island Native Community regarding sewer and waater development at the east end of Nome. She suggested the development of a Nome development corporation to assist in the coordination of local and regional partnerships and their investement to improve the lives of citizens.
4. Cameron Piscoya echoed what Ms. Alvanna-Stimpfle said, discussing their interest in developing housing on the east end of town.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on City of Nome and Nome Joint Utility System Federal Priorities with Senator Lisa Murkowski:

- A. Reduction in the Local Cost Share for Arctic Deep Draft Port Expansion
 - B. Housing for Education and Law Enforcement Professionals
 - C. Wind Farm and Battery Storage Expansion
 - D. Water and Sewer Expansion
- Mayor Handeland thanked Senator Murkowski for her floor speech for Richard Beneville and for working hard for rural Alaska.
 - Senator Murkowski discussed Mayor Beneville's legacy as a strong advocate for Nome,
 - Mayor Handeland led conversation with Senator Murkowski regarding port expansion and the status of the port expansion project, potential upcoming visitors from DC, current grants submitted, housing issues, issues in hiring teachers in rural AK, the present project in design phase with the AHFC grant award, issues in hiring and retaining law enforcement officers. They discussed previous efforts directed at smaller communities (such as Savoonga) to assist in developing quality housing to retain teachers. Senator Murkowski said there is a refocused view on housing in Washington, DC and asked if there were other professional sectors that needed to be focused upon as well.
 - Mayor Handeland led discussion on the cost prohibitive nature of extending utilities, on wind energy, the expected cost of fuel around the corner, Pilgrim Hot Springs and whether it was still a potential power source for Nome. Mayor Handeland discussed the challenges with developing a power source at Pilgrim. They discussed the DOE symposium in Anchorage in late May.
 - Council Member Henderson thanked the Senator for the discussion on housing and asked that if federal money was available it should be used on water/sewer expansion to facilitate development.
 - Senator Murkowski noted the Feds were doing more on the water and sewer front than other sectors, in terms of appropriations and the infrastructure bill.
 - Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle discussion the recent revision of the SDS guidebook. She explained that to access IHS funds for water and sewer projects, the applicant would need

to build home within a year. As it's in the NJUS system, NJUS has to apply for funds. For state funds, Nome has an advantage - 20% set aside for hub communities – but there are still challenges.

- Council Member Martinson thanked Senator Murkowski for coming to Nome.
- Council Member Doug Johnson opined the IHS requirements were crazy due to the required schedule of building in Nome.
- Senator Murkowski discussed logistics associated with distributing CARES Act funds, specifically the PPP not working for seasonal workers / fishermen.
- Council Member Topkok explained she was grateful Senator Murkowski was able to come to Nome and discussed homelessness and substance abuse as issues in Nome and the region.
- Council Member Mark Johnson discussed her previous St. Lawrence Island visit and its housing focus and asked if there were ways to incentivize private industry in building housing. He thanked Senator Murkowski for reaching across the aisle to benefit Alaska and the country.
- Senator Murkowski discussed the visit to St. Lawrence Island, noting no new homes had been built in 12 years. She relayed the Indian Affairs Committee was still talking about the trip. She discussed logistics and challenges in completing projects in Rural AK.
- Council Member Brown discussed the Davis Bacon rates as adding a significant amount of cost to the project, contrasting it with private industry being able to keep costs down, opining the same amount of funds go further when used through private industry. He discussed previous attempts and their associated challenges at reducing the cost of energy in Nome. He asked about micro reactors coming to Alaska.
- Senator Murkowski discussed small scale nuclear power generation and current headway in terms of development and deployment at Eilsen Air Force Base. She encouraged the State to look at the natural assets first, noting that the State of Alaska was making steps to remove barriers to small modular nuclear projects. Suggested it might work at a mine site in the region.
- Mayor Handeland thanked the Senator and the Council for the productive discussion noting it was time for the Senator to move on to her next engagement.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections the Council adjourned at 1:23 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 25th day of April, 2022

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

JEREMY JACOBSON
Deputy Clerk