

Mayor
John K. Handeland
Manager
Glenn Steckman
Clerk
Bryant Hammond



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

NOME COMMON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 09, 2023 at 5:30 / 7:15 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. Presentation on Potential Recycling Expansion and Partnerships.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Scot Henderson; Doug Johnson (telephonic); Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson;

Members Absent: Kellie Miller, Youth Representative (excused); Cameron Piscoya (excused); Sigvanna Tapqaq (excused)

Also Present: John K. Handeland, Mayor; Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammd, Clerk; Ken Morton, Assistant Utility Manager; Mike Heintzelman, NPD Chief; Bob Pruckner, NPD Deputy Chief; Cheryl Thompson, Executive Assistant

In the audience: Diana Haecker (Nome Nugget); Derek McLarty; Anahma Shannon; Vanessa Tahbone; Tim and Jessica Lemaire; Rolland Trowbridge; Kathy Arhgio

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Discussion:

- Mayor Handeland noted the need for an executive session.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 12, 2022 Nome Common Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the December 12, 2022 minutes.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of December 1, 2022 from Nome PreSchool to City of Nome re: Donations for February PreSchool Auction.
 - Mayor Handeland asked Manager Handeland to donate some City of Nome gear.
- B. Letter of December 10, 2022 from Nancy Mendenhall to Nome Common Council re: Concerns Regarding Micro-Nuclear Energy.
- C. Letter of December 20, 2022 from City of Nome to Sales & Bed Taxpayers.
 - Clerk Hammond explained the migration to the new system.
- D. Letter of December 23, 2022 from Nome Discovery Tours to Manager Steckman re: 2022 Cruise Ship Season Wrapup.
- E. Letter of December 30, 2022 from Superintendent Burgess to Manager Steckman re: State of Alaska Reimbursement - ACSA Restroom Remodel Project.
 - Council Member Henderson asked if such requests were normally handled through the budget process. He clarified that the City funded the project with the understanding School would give the reimbursement to general fund. He continued to note that Nome Public Schools submits a budget request to City and wondered how it was different. He opined that he would prefer the request going through the budget proces. Unless there are construction scheduleds depending on it.
 - Council Member Mark Johnson suggested they hold on to the funds as the budget process is just around corner.
 - Manager Steckman opined the money should go into city coffers; though said he had not had a lot of conversation with Superintendent Burgess but knows its a priority. He noted he would give her a call.
- F. Poster re: Internet Affordability & Accessibility Town Hall in Council Chambers on January 12, 2023.
- G. March 22-23, 2022 Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Draft Agenda.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- 1. Kirsten Bey, Nome Kennel Club, appreciates the resolution for redoing the tripod staking project that was completed just prior to being destroyed by Merbok.
- 2. Jessica LeMaire, seconded Ms. Bey's comments and thanked the Council for their consideration.

3. Kathy Ahrigio, from Boise State University, introduced herself saying that she was in town studying energy development and economics, noting that she was a historian of energy system change. She told those present she was looking for more people to talk to about energy development in Nome.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. O-23-01-01 An Ordinance of the Nome Common Council, Nome, Alaska, Amending Nome Code of Ordinances 2.30.040 Reducing the Number of Members of the Public Safety Advisory Commission, **FIRST READING/DISCUSSION.**

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Henderson to advance O-23-01-01.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- B. Memo Re: Collective Bargaining Agreements: IBEW 1547, IUOE 302, APEA/AFT Local 6138 January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.
- Assistant Utility Manager Morton explained the status of the labor agreement negotiations. He noted inflation as a primary reason for keeping the terms to 1 year, rather than three years as normally desired.
- C. R-23-01-01 A Resolution Approving the Labor Agreement Between Nome Joint Utility System and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547 Through December 31, 2023.
- D. R-23-01-02 A Resolution Approving the Labor Agreement Between Nome Joint Utility System and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 through December 31, 2023.
- E. R-23-01-03 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, 2023.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-23-01-01, R-23-01-02, and R-23-01-03.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED.**

- F. R-23-01-04 A Resolution Allocating Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) of the NSEDC Community Benefits Share Recovery Funds to the Nome Kennel Club for Repair and Replacement of Trail Markers Along the Iditarod Trail from Topkok Head to the City of Nome.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to adopt R-23-01-04.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- G. R-23-01-05 A Resolution Approving a Letter of Agreement between the City of Nome and the City of Nome Employees Association, Local 6141, APEA/AFT (AFL-CIO).

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded C. Henderson to adopt R-23-01-05.

Discussion:

- Manager Steckman explained that two positions in the union should be, by code, exempt. The museum director's departure gives the opportunity to correct one.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

- H. R-23-01-06 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager or City Clerk to Administratively Forgive Small Amounts of Penalty and Interest Incurred by Sales & Bed Tax-Remitting Businesses as a Result of the Transition to the LocalGov Online Tax Platform Provided by Azavar Solutions.

A motion was made by C. Martinson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to adopt R-23-01-06.

A motion was made by C. Henderson and seconded by C. M. Johnson to increase the amount per account from \$100 to \$500.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

A motion was made by C.M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to change "first month" to "first quarter" in the third Whereas.

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend **CARRIED**.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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

UTILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: December 13, 2022 - January 5, 2023.

Assistant Manager Morton gave an operations report since 12/12/22, noting that the parts for the issue that arose on Christmas Day were one the way and the power plant crew hopes to have it up and running next week. The generator was scheduled for overhaul in the spring.

He discussed the coupling crack in # 15 which dropped coolant on the floor resulting in the generator shutting down to protect itself. At the same time, the power plant crew swapped out couplings while the line crew assisted in the field. Couplings are inspected at least every hour.

- Council Member Mark Johnson commended the utility crew for jumping on it at that time of night.
- Mayor Handeland noted lots of people responded immediately

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Activity Report: December 13, 2022 - January 5, 2023.

- Manager Steckman thanked Chip Leeper for acting being acting City Manager while he was away; thankfully nothing disastrous happened. A number of employees got stuck on way to see family over the holidays.
- He noted renovations are going on at the rec center and the visitors center . He described some specifics with each. He noted the Kawerak Leadership conference going on at the MCC over the next few days.
- Manager Steckman noted NPD had hired a new police officer, due into Nome in about a month or so. He's AK certified and will be a year round resident of Nome. There are still more positions to fill, but it was proving challenging.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

1. Kirsten Bey thanked the Council and announced the first dog race of the season, starting from the snow dump area off Greg Kruschek Ave.
2. Diana Haecker, Nugget Editor and Publisher, announced the passing of Sandra Medearis on December 30, 2022. She covered the council for decades, and by doing so greatly educated the public on matters pertaining to the City and local politics.
3. Brad Soske gave a shout out to Mayor Handeland and NVFD for the New Years' Eve fireworks.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

1. Council Member Scott Henderson noted that Sandra Medearis held the Council accountable. He discussed the recycling project and spoke highly of it. He opined he was happy the City was going online with sales and bed tax administration but noted that there were a lot of people that are comfortable completing the paper copies. He expressed appreciation for keeping the Utility's wages competitive.
2. Council Member Doug Johnson – no comments.
3. Council Member Mark Johnson noted the difference between the Alaska Municipal League Conference this year and the last one he attended, namely the differences between the topics of taxation and this years theme of infrastructure funding coming from the Federal Government. He spoke highly of Cameron Piscoya, whom he attended the conference with.
4. Council Member Martinson – no comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- A. Activity Report: December 13, 2022 - January 5, 2023.
- Mayor Handeland thanked Randy Oles, Craig Teesateskie and the rest of NVFD for the New Year's Eve fireworks. He said it was nice to get back to a semblance of normalcy. Most residents had positive comments.
 - He thanked NSEDC for the energy subsidy provided to the community. He noted confusion as the member communities outside Nome got access to heating fuel, whereas it is going through NJUS for ease of administration. He discussed a slip up and how it was addressed and noted the \$600,000 influx into the community.
 - He thanked Kathy for looking into energy development in Nome. He plugged her study.
 - Mayor Handeland noted the end of 2022 had been a hard one for the community. He noted the passing of Officer Curtis Worland and hoped that his death wouldn't be in vain and that something would be done to improve Muskox management in and around Nome. He noted the passing of Sandra Medearis as a blow to the community and spoke briefly about her last days. He ended by noting the passing of Steffen Anderson as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Martinson to enter into executive session to legal matters the immediate knowledge of which could have adverse impacts on City of Nome finances.

The Council entered into executive session at 8:14 PM.

The Council came out of executive session at 8:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the Council adjourned at 8:30 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 23rd day of January 2023

JOHN K. HANDELAND
Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
Clerk