

Presented By:  
City Clerk

Action Taken:  
Yes\_\_\_\_  
No\_\_\_\_  
Abstain\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF NOME  
ORDINANCE NO. O-21-03-02**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2.15 AND CHAPTER 15.10 TO ELECT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND UTILITY BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE**

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.15.010 of the Nome Code of Ordinances currently requires candidates for seats on the city council to run for designated seats at large; and,

**WHEREAS**, Nome has experienced decreased interests in running for local office; and,

**WHEREAS**, A system of designated seats is less compelling given that all elected officials represent the entire community at large; and,

**WHEREAS**, It is in the public interest to change from a designated seat system to an at large system in hopes of increasing the number of Nome residents who seek to hold public office;

**IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOME:**

**Section 1. Amendment of Section 2.15.010.** Section 2.15,010 of the Code of Ordinances of Nome, Alaska is hereby amended to read as follows [deletions are overstruck]:

**2.15.010 Composition and powers.**

The legislative power of the city and all other powers reasonably implied are vested in the city council. The city council is composed of six members elected by the voters ~~for designated seats~~ on an at-large basis.

**Section 2. Amendment of Subsection 7.15.030.** Subsection 7.15,030 of the Code of Ordinances of Nome, Alaska is hereby amended to read as follows [additions are underlined, deletions are overstruck]:

**7.15.030 ~~Designated seats~~ Candidates Elected at Large.**

Candidates for city council, school board and utility board shall file for election by the municipal voters at large. Municipal voters may cast votes for as many candidates for city council, school board and utility board as there are seats to be filled. ~~but for seats designated alphabetically commencing with the seats vacated in October, 1978 and~~

~~continuing thereafter until each seat has received an alphabetical designation.~~ No person may file for more than one seat within the same office.

**Section 3. Amendment of Subsection 7.25.140.** Subsection 7.25.140 of the Code of Ordinances of Nome, Alaska is hereby amended to read as follows [additions are underlined, deletions are overstruck]:

**7.25.140 Insufficient plurality.**

No person may hold the office of mayor of Nome, ~~Nome school board, Nome joint utilities or the Nome common council~~ as a result of any election, regular or special, without receiving a majority of the votes cast for the office. A majority is defined as forty percent of the total votes cast for all candidates divided by the number of seats to be filled plus at least one vote. ~~In the event that no single~~ If the number of candidates for Nome common council, Nome school board or Nome joint utilities board that receives a majority is less than the number of seats to be filled, the ~~two~~ candidates receiving the most votes in the regular election shall be elected based on the number of votes received starting with the candidate receiving the most votes until all seats to be filled at any election have been filled. If no candidate for mayor receives a majority of the votes cast, the two candidates receiving the most votes shall have a run-off election on the first Tuesday of the month following the subject election to establish a winner. In the case of a special election, the two candidates receiving the most votes shall have a run-off no more than thirty days after subsequent to the special election.

**Section 4. Amendment of Subsection 15.10.040(a).** Subsection 15.10.040(a) of the Code of Ordinances of Nome, Alaska is hereby amended to read as follows [additions are underlined, deletions are overstruck]:

**15.10.040 Membership, qualifications, term and vacancies.**

(a) The board shall consist of five members elected by the voters on an at large basis. A utility board member is elected for a three year term and until a successor qualifies. Each seat on the board is a separate office and shall be designated as A, B, C, D and E, respectively. Candidates for the board shall file for a particular office or seat, which shall be stated in the declaration of candidacy. ~~The terms of office of those members of the board holding seats A and B shall be two years, and the terms of office of those members of the board holding seats C, D and E shall be three years. At the first expiration of a term of a member of the board in office on the effective date of this chapter, a member shall be elected for seat A; at the second such expiration, a member shall be elected for seat B; at the third such expiration, a member shall be elected for seat C; at the fourth such expiration, a member shall be elected for seat D; at the fifth such expiration, a member shall be elected for seat E. It is the intention of this section that upon the first expiration of the term of the member elected for seat A, and in each year thereafter, two members shall be elected to the board, one for a term of three years, and one for a term of two years.~~

**Section 5. No Impact on Current Terms of Office.** Adoption of this ordinance shall not change the terms of office of current members of the city council or utilities board.

**Section 6. Effective Date.** This ordinance is effective upon passage.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

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**JOHN K. HANDELAND**  
**Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**BRYANT HAMMOND**  
**City Clerk**