

**MINUTES  
NOME PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 02, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Nome Planning Commission was called to order at 7:02PM by Chairman Hughes in Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Sue Steinacher; Kenneth Hughes III; Mat Michels; Sara Lizak; Carol Piscoya; and Gregory T Smith.

Members Absent: John Odden (excused).

Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; and Christine Piscoya, Deputy City Clerk; David Barron, Building Inspector.

In the audience: James Mason, Nome Nugget Newspaper and Darrin Otton.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Hughes asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

A motion was made by C. Michels and seconded by C. Steinacher to approve the agenda.

At the roll call:

Aye: Hughes; Michels; Lizak; Piscoya; Smith; Steinacher.

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. May 5, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Michels and seconded by C. Steinacher to approve the May 5, 2020 minutes as amended.

At the roll call:

Aye: Michels; Lizak; Piscoya; Smith; Steinacher; Hughes.

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

### **A. HPC Activities.**

- Marguerite La Riviere stated she met with Gary Gillette to establish a contract and that he did not want to do the grant administration which was in the original contract for the City Planner but not in the RFP. For the time being, Marguerite La Riviere will do the HPC phase II quarterly report that's due in July and continue with the grant administration for the time being.
- Commissioner Steinacher mentioned there is no update for the King Island Project and that she will process the July quarterly report. C. Steinacher mentioned that there was duplicate signs somewhere with the City for various signs around town and hopes that they can find these signs.
- City Manager Steckman stated that they have found the duplicate signs. They found the rest of the sign for the Dexter Bypass and hopes that they will be able to set it up. City Manager Steckman also mentioned they have found another "Anvil City Square" sign and will have that being worked on. City Manager Steckman stated that the OSJ Emergency Door Porch and the OSJ Playground will be worked on this summer and update the signs.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Flier re: Spring Clean-up Details.**

- Commissioner Steinacher asked how not having the dump trucks available throughout the city is related to COVID-19.
- City Manager Steckman stated it relates to the lack of man power and that citizens have been using it to dispose of paint, car batteries and other items that are not to be disposed of. City Manager Steckman stated that if citizens are already loading up their vehicles, we will make the monofill available for free for the clean-up week and have U-Call, We-Haul.

### **B. News Release re: Nome Port Expansion Project.**

- Commissioner Steinacher asked what the next step is and what are the odds are of getting funded?
- Chairman Hughes replied goes into the next bill that goes before Congress. If it gets passed, depends on how much funding it would receive for funding Port Expansion.

## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Variance Request: Darrin Otton, Block 96 Lot 7 N 1/2.**

A motion was made by C. Steinacher and seconded by C. Michels to approve the variance request for Darrin Otton 2020-01V.

Went into Public Hearing at 7:15PM

Went out of Public Hearing at 7:16PM

Discussion:

- Commissioner Steinacher stated that the variance was hard to follow.
- Chairman Hughes agreed that some of the variances are hard to follow sometimes.
- Commissioner Lizak stated she couldn't find the lot and block information to find the location of the variance request.
- Deputy City Clerk Piscoya mentioned that it is a vacant lot and that it is on the west end of town and that there isn't an exact physical address attached to it since there isn't any type of structure on it currently.
- Chairman Hughes mentioned that the sketch supplied that it would meet all the setback requirements.
- Commissioner Lizak mentioned that the water, sewer and fuel tank would need to be meeting the setback requirements.
- Building Inspector Barron mentioned that it would meet the setback requirements would be met.
- Commissioner Lizak asked for clarification on the 10 feet to property line for the fuel tank. And asked for clarification for neighboring properties and where the actual street is.
- Commissioner Steinacher asked for clarification of where North is and where the streets are to find the direction of the layout.
- Commissioner Lizak stated that if they met the setback, and the water and sewer shouldn't come out more than five feet either. C. Lizak asked if the structure was already built or if it was new.
- Darrin Otton stated it is for a new building and has not been built yet.
- Chairman Hughes stated that he doesn't see any problem with granting this variance.

At the roll call:

Aye: Lizak; Piscoya; Smith; Steinacher; Hughes; Michels.  
Nay:  
Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Comprehensive Plan 2030.

- Deputy City Clerk Piscoya stated this was a place holder and that there wasn't any update to the comprehensive plan.

**STAFF REPORTS**

A. City Manager's Activity Report.

- City Manager Steckman stated he was talking to a potential candidate for the City Planner position and working through the details of the contract. Since the position has not been confirmed, City Manager Steckman will not mention who is a potential candidate.
- City Manager Steckman stated that both abatement structures have been taken down with easy compliance from one owner and had discussions with another owner but both structures have been taken down. C. Steckman stated if there are any additional structures that they see that should be abated, they should direct those properties to city staff.
- Deputy Clerk Piscoya stated that there are three pages of abatement and vacant properties for review and that last year we only addressed the top ten properties.

- City Manager Steckman stated that if there are any City of Nome properties that they will have to be addressed separately.
- Building Inspector Barron stated that one of them were proposed to remodel and use for NPD housing but did not work through.
- Commissioner Steinacher asked if they were on the list or if it was going to go up for sale.
- Building Inspector Barron stated it was added to the abatement list to get abated. The white building would need to do away with it and that no one is living in it.
- Commissioner Lizak asked if at the next meeting that there could be an updated abatement/vacant property list for the Commission.
- City Manager Steckman stated he did not know there was a list and that there are properties he hopes that is on the list.
- City Manager Steckman continued with his report stating that the Common Council is going to be presented with an Emergency Economic Disaster Declaration and they will decide on Monday on what to vote. The Council has approved a one-time 2% reduction for the sales tax and it had started on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will go through August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. There is also a Business Application for CARES Act funding for business that is now out for the public and hopes that business will apply for funding.
- City Manager Steckman stated that the Port of Nome is now open for business and have given information to Port users on how to use the Port with the updated guidelines. Along with the Port opening, the travel permit has been updated to a travel form has been updated and now includes an FAQ. The quarantine requirements will be an option of a seven day quarantine with testing on day one and testing on day seven, that if both tests are negative you are out of quarantine or if one does not want to test, they will have to do a 14 day quarantine.
  - Chairman Hughes noted the Port announcement that the requirement for quarantine is only a 14 day quarantine.
  - City Manager Steckman replied that depending on how long the travel is, it may be a week to two weeks to get up here and that if it were shorter, then they'd need to test if they stayed within Nome. He understands that some Port users may make stops along the way but do not notify of their plan but there have been vessels that have had outbreaks. There are strict requirements put on by the Coast Guard and the Port of Nome that a vessel would have to comply by.
  - Commissioner Steinacher asked if a miner could go to the Port and work on their boat while on quarantine.
  - City Manager Steckman replied yes, they can however they are requesting they limit the person to person contact until their test results have come back. Each miner has also submitted plans to the Port of Nome for their quarantine plan and are to follow their plan.
  - Commissioner Steinacher asked if there are out of state travelers do they have an option for the seven day quarantine option.
  - City Manager Steckman replied that they are to show a negative test result within 72 hours of travel. Do we then accept it or require them to get testing in Nome then start the 7 day quarantine. He explains that folks who are on quarantine are able to go out into the country but it's a concern that they do not interact with anyone in the public. The city of Nome received the first case, and couldn't figure out how they contracted the virus as they were non-travel related. The following two cases they are unsure yet of how they contracted the virus, if it was travel related or spread.
  - Chairman Hughes asked about the Anti-Body Testing through ANTHC rather than doing the rapid testing and how the quarantine process would work for an asymptomatic person who shows no signs of having the virus but have a positive test.

- City Manager Steckman replied that the Anti-Body testing would only show if you have had COVID 19 in the past. City Manager Steckman continued that the quarantine process is still a seven day quarantine with testing on day one and testing on day seven or no testing at all with a quarantine for 14 days. There are some people that are showing signs or symptoms on day 14.
- City Manager Steckman explained that the NEST shelter has closed for the summer months. The NSHC Day Shelter is going to move down to the Mini Convention Center for the time being; a month to month rental.\* CM Steckman stated that there will be a meeting with various agencies to figure out a longevity plan for the homeless. He continued that there is an increase in the homeless during Iditarod due to limited housing and so they stay at the NEST shelter.
- Commissioner Steinacher stated she was a past Director of NEST and that wasn't an issue while she was there for the type of use for the NEST shelter. She asked for clarification if it was visitors from out of region and state who were intending to stay at NEST instead of finding a hotel.
- City Manager Steckman explained he wasn't too sure but it seemed as though there were some people who knew where to find shelter at the NEST shelter.

B. Deputy Clerk: Active Permit Summaries.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

- 1) Commissioner Smith was nice to see the updated signs go up and looks forward to the data from the NEST shelter.
- 2) Commissioner Steinacher would like to see what material and the process one would take for a variance and offer her help with how to improve the application. Things like showing a North arrow, street names and neighboring property owners would assist in understanding where the location is of the variance. C. Steinacher stated the Census 2020 is coming to Nome and these folks will go door to door and not meet with anyone but leave information for being counted for the Census. C. Steinacher thanked City Manager Steckman for stepping up during this time and thanks to all the city staff as well.
  - Deputy City Clerk Piscoya explained how a variance comes up and explains the process.
  - Building Inspector Barron stated the directional and other titles could be added to a variance permit.
- 3) Chairman Hughes mentioned that the dust control is still a problem. He stated he seen two police cruisers speed down Front Street and there was a cloud of dust that was left in the air for some time, hopefully the state can get on the dust problem.
- 4) Commissioner Lizak is happy to hear that the two abatement properties have been taken down and hopes that the abatement list can be evaluated again. Along with some building going down that some buildings and housing can go up as well. C. Lizak thanked Marguerite for stepping up and keeping up with the grants.
- 5) Commissioner Piscoya thanks to the city staff for the continued work through this COVID virus time and that everyone is doing a good job. She reminded that the Comprehensive Plan is still on the table and does need to get back on track and hopes that there is a new planner to come aboard soon. Reminder that the Census is going on and hopes everyone is counted.

6) Commissioner Michels thanked city staff for the working you are doing and happy to see the abatement properties are coming down, would like to see an updated list as well. Commissioner Michels mentioned he will be taking part in the meeting on the Nome Eskimo Community Board as they decide what to do with the CARES Act Funding.

**SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7PM is the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by C. Michels and seconded by C. Steinacher that the meeting be adjourned.

Hearing no objections, the Nome Planning Commission adjourned at 8:18PM

**APPROVED and SIGNED this 8<sup>th</sup> of September, 2020.**

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**KENNETH HUGHES III**  
**Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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**CHRISTINE PISCOYA**  
**Deputy City Clerk**